December 4th — 10th, 1986, No. 48 75¢

THE Fisherman

LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION

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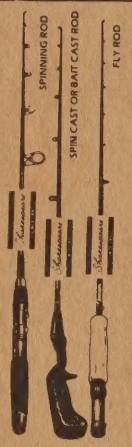

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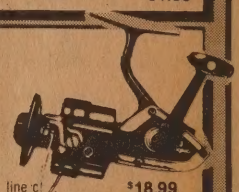

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THE Fisherman

LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION

Volume 21, Number 48 December 4th, 1986

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ABOUT THE COVER:

The surf fishing season has slipped away for all but a handful of dedicated souls, and even they will be racking their rods for the last time in the days ahead. Surfmen looking to hone their skills for next season should check out the article on pendulum casting beginning on page 18.

Publisher: Richard Reina

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The LONG ISLAND FISHERMAN is published weekly, except for two weeks in December by the L.I.F. Publishing Corporation, L.I.F. Building, Bridge Street, P.O. Box 1994, Sag Harbor, N.Y. 11963. Telephone: 516-725-4200. Second Class Postage paid at Sag Harbor, New York. $.75 per copy, back issues $1. Subscriptions: 50 Issues, $17.50; 100 Issues, $33. Photographs and written contributions are welcomed. Unsolicited contributions become the property of The Long Island Fisherman. All contributions to be returned must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope. All consideration will be given to these requests, however, no responsibility on our part is assumed. Notice of change of address must include both new and old addresses and sent to the Main Office. Allow two to four weeks for change. USPS 588-160.

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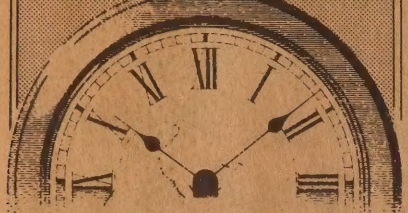

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OAKDALE SPORTSMEN'S ALL CLUBS COD TOURNEY RESULTS

The Oakdale Sportsmen's Club hosted the Annual All Clubs Codfish Tournament on Saturday, November 15. Despite a rather choppy and uncomfortable morning, the day turned out to be quite fishable and some of the competitors even found codfish among the hordes of "doggies."

A total of 26 boats representing 5 clubs fished and the results were as follows: first place club: Squaw Island, 161¾ lbs.; second place club: Bayshore Tuna, 57¼ lbs.

The Squaw Island boat "Lady Marion," captained by Ken Schmeider was tops in the tournament with 5 fish totaling 86¾ lbs. Captain Joe Braun's "Won Son," also from Squaw Island, was second with 75 lbs. The Bay Shore boat, "Queen Mary," captained by Duenter Santjer, was the third place boat with 57¼ lbs.

Individual prizes were: first, Ken Schmeider, Lady Marion, 24¾ lbs.; second, Steve Affelt, Queen Mary, 24½ lbs.; third, Joe Garguilo, Lady Marion, 20¼ lbs.; fourth, Duenter Santjer, Queen Marion, 18 lbs.; and fifth, Ernie Southern, Won Son, 16½ lbs.

EXPANDED 'FISHING FOR FLUKE" NOW AVAILABLE

Millions of fluke (summer flounder) invade the coastal waters of the Atlantic from north Florida and the Carolinas to Montauk and New England each summer. If you want to catch your share of these and popular fish, don't miss reading Don Kamienski's "Fishing For Fluke."

A hard core fluke fisherman himself, Don often amazes other anglers with his good catches. He is a fishing guide and professional angler. His 132-page book is detailed, yet easy to read with numerous photos and illustrations showing exactly how to catch more fluke.

Chapters take the angler through the biology of the species, the tackle, rigs, baits, lures and every fishing method from drifting to chumming; even fishing with artificial lures.

Special attention is given to landing, filleting and preserving the catch. Don also covers many secrets of the "pro" anglers like the dropback technique, working ranges, fishing dropoffs and how to find the best structure.

"Fishing For Fluke" is available at $7.95 per copy, plus $1 shipping, through The Fisherman Library, 339 Herbertsville Rd., Brick, NJ 08724.

RYOBI KICKS OFF "LICENSE FEE FOR FREE" PROMOTION

Heralded as a "precedent-setting" offer that combines the interests of consumers, retailers and fishery conservationists, Ryobi's "License Fee for Free" promotion began October 18th and runs through the busy holiday season, ending December 27th.

The License Fee for Free promotion targets 29.6 million licensed fishermen nationwide, promising to refund the cost of a 1986 annual resident fishing license with the purchase of any Ryobi T-1, T-2, GM-40 or G-40 baitcasting reel or any Demon Drag (R(D-1, D-2, D-3, D-4 or D-5 spinning reel. All the fisherman needs to do is photocopy his license and send it along with original coupon and proof of purchase, to Ryobi. A check for the cost of the license will be sent to the license holder.

In discussing the conceptualization of the "License Fee for Free" promotion, Joe Kuti, vice president of Ryobi America Corporation's Fishing Tackle Division, remarked, "We wanted to digress from the industry pattern of meaningless rebates and short-term

IN MEMORIAM - CHARLES HOLLINS

Charlie Hollins, long-time member of the Long Island Beach Buggy Association and Great South Bay Anglers Club, succumbed to a long illness on Tuesday, November 25th. He was sixty-nine. A World War II veteran and recipient of a Silver Star, Charlie owned and operated Bayport Garage for many years and was widely recognized as the Dean of 4 WD repair in this area.

For all of his skills and accomplishments, Charlie will be best remembered as a man who spoke more with his actions than his mouth. For many years, he was the moving force behind the fight for beach access. He was always ready to lend a hand where needed, on the beach as well as in his community, where he recently celebrated his 50th year with the Bayport Fire Department. He has been an avid supporter of The Fisherman's Send-A-Kid Fishing Program since its inception.

Charlie will be sorely missed by all who knew him. I was one of those blessed with that privilege. A feisty man who, even as cancer was sapping the last of his strength, was making plans for what he must have known would be his last visit to the beaches he held so dear. Other beaches, wider and whiter and swept by fish-filled tides, must surely await him. That is our wish. **Fred Golofaro.**

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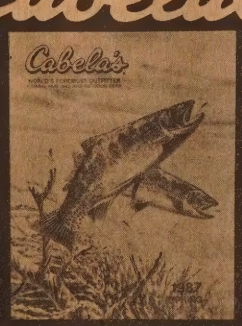

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hype. We wanted to be the first tackle manufacturer to make an emphatic statement about the importance of resource funding. Enhancement of the fishery should be a primary concern of all those participating in the business of sport fishing.

"State fishery agencies use license fee monies as a means to obtain matched share funding from the federal Sport Fish Restoration Program (Wallop-Breaux), which is underwritten, in part, by the excise taxes tackle manufacturers are the first in distribution to pay. Sport Fish Restoration Program matched-share funding exceeds $140 million annually. You might say that Ryobi is helping the fishery at both ends of the funding spectrum."

Ryobi will bolster the "License Fee for Free" promotion with aggressive national advertising, as well as a complete merchandising program for participating dealers.

Segment II of the promotion, March 14th to April 4th, is slated to tie in with the beginning of the 1987 fishing season.

BOATING SAFETY COURSE IN QUEENS

U.S. Coast Guard Auxliary Flotilla 11-3 is giving a 15 week Boating Skills and Seamanship Course in Howard Beach, Queens at the Old Mill Yacht Club, at 7:30 PM beginning on January 14, 1987. Some of the subjects taught include trailering, boat handling, marine engines, legal requirements, rules of the road and piloting. There will be a minimal charge for books and navigational tools.

For registration and further information, call FSO-PE Charles Fleckenstein at (718) 497-6893.

NEW HUNTING AND FISHING GUIDE COVERS ALL 50 STATES AND CANADA

Tim Manion's newest book, the *American Hunting & Fishing Guide*, is an exciting fact-filled publication packed with valuable information for the outdoorsman.

The 240-page book provides advice and statistics on what states produce the largest bear, whitetail and other game, harvesting trophy areas, population of game, places to catch record-breaking fish, camping information, the best guides in the area, and much more, all under one cover.

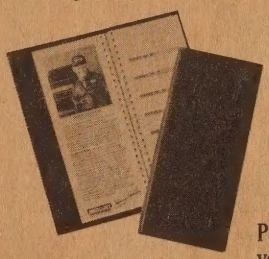
Each state report is carefully designed to give the reader helpful information before he makes a decision to go into the field.

Reading the "Guide" will help the hunter and fisherman save time and money in planning his next trip while comparing his favorite hunting and fishing hotspots with other regions and states.

The *American Hunting & Fishing Guide*, published by the Manion Outdoors Publishing Company, is available for $9.95 plus $1 postage from: KMS Distribution, Box 590, Middleton, WI 53562.

How would you like to take America's top pros fishing with you?

Now you can with the 1987 Angler's Almanac and Datebook.



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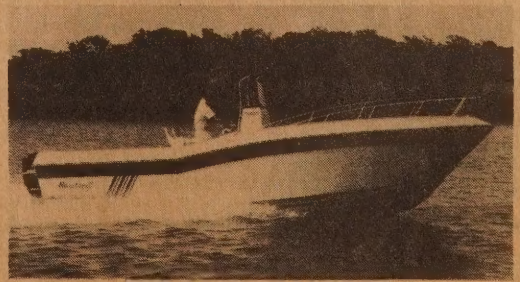

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★ PRODUCT REVIEW ★

BOOKS FOR ANGLERS

by Brian Mulholland

I am a print junkie, and use the local library and used book stores to fill out my notions of angling. I have come across some books that deserve particular attention from anglers who fish in saltwater without the budget for a sportfisherman, or the regular use of a charter boat. Picking the brain of a good charter captain might be the easiest way to learn, but that's beyond my budget. If you can't afford a tutor, you have to read for new ideas, and serious study means books as well as magazines.

The modern dean of angling writers is A.J. McClane, and a budget expended on his books is always well spent. I can't read anything he's written without being humbled by the scope of his knowledge: he seems to have been everywhere, caught everything and eaten it five different ways—at the same table with the Prime Minister and Crown Prince. Anyway, he has a number of books on the market that are so much fun that no one with an interest in fishing can fail to enjoy.

At the low end of the price spectrum, *Secrets of Successful Fishing* (Holt, Rinehard and Winston) covers basic techniques for all types of fishing. If you want a comprehensive paperback on the basics, this is it: how to cast, which end of the plug bites, the knots you need for your first hundred trips and so on. This is the most systematic rundown of the necessary basics that I've found and it's reasonably priced.

McClane's *New Standard Fishing Encyclopedia* is at the opposite end of the scale in prize, size and wealth of detail. This is the Moby Dick of one volume encyclopedias, well illusrated and adrip with detail. It is the ultimate browser's fishing book. You can wander through the pages with the same sort of pleasure as you'd feel wandering through the aisles of a boat show. Do you want to look up the angling potential of a state, country or continent for vacation scheduling? This is the book. (Coverage of angling in the central Sahara is admittedly weak.) If you want a look at a type of angling you haven't tried, this is a good source. If you would like to show off more knowledge of angling than you possess, this is the right crib sheet. The price is impressive enough that you might want to look the volume over at the local library. Many libraries have it as the sole angling book in the reference section. If you're looking for a special gift for the fisherman in your life, here is one that will last a lifetime.

McClane's *Encyclopedia of Fish Cookery* is a nice companion volume. Like the encyclopedia, this is a magnum volume in size, price and data content. The illustrations are lavish and it's hard to leaf through the book without drooling on the pages. Hang a napkin on your tongue if it's the library's copy that you're inspecting. The sheer size and elaboration of this book may intimidate novice cooks, so it's not the fish cookbook for someone who doesn't already own one.

After McClane, the quality of how-to saltwater text on angling falls off. There are scores of books in print on inshore saltwater angling, and you can locate them by picking through outdoor magazines or by touching base with your tackle dealer. Most of them need more editing than they got from the publisher. Still, there are plenty of interesting ideas between their covers. Some of what circulates in hard bound volumes may not appear in your magazine subscription.

This is especially true of two books by the English author and fisherman, John Holden on the pendulum casting technique. The current record for a cast with a 150 gram (5½ ounce) sinker is now in excess of 250 yards. Five hundred to six hundred foot casts are possible with serviceable fishing tackle and a Hopkins or diamond jig. If you want to acquire the technique and build the tackle which is suited to it, you'll have to purchase one of the author's books. You'll find little in the way of instruction in print, aside from these books.

The older of the two is *Long Distance Casting*, which describes the technique of the pendulum cast and the requirements it imposes on tackle. A companion volume, *The Beach Fisherman's Tackle Guide* ex-

pands on the hardware ramifications of pendulum casting and includes a number of potential designs for pendulum casting rods. Both are available from the Longwood Publishing Group, Inc., 57 Washington Street, Dover, NH 03820.

A book of interest to anyone who fishes the Atlantic Coast surf is *Surf Fishing With The Experts*, a Fisherman magazine publication. This is an exception to the rule that matters of local application don't make it into hard cover. Unlike many books on basics, this one is well enough written to be comprehensible to a genuine beginner. Sections on Montauk and Cape Cod are particularly useful for anglers who make just an occasional visit to these areas.

This is a good Christmas present for a niece or nephew who wants to go fishing. It is also the right book to give someone with a modest or casual interest in fishing, because surf casting can be pursued with a lower cash investment than other kinds of fishing. If you want to learn just enough to soak an inch of worm while you enjoy a picnic, this would be the only book you'd need, but it will carry you a good deal beyond that level, too. The Fisherman also has a book on party boat fishing in preparation. Keep an eye out for it.

The Fisherman paperbacks on particular species are good. The current edition of *Fishing for Fluke* is my favorite, but all of them are good buys for people with an interest in the particular species in question. I wish there were more angling ideas books in print. The *First Book of Angling Ideas*, also from the Fisherman Press, is a paperback that should be of interest. The chapters are not related. Instead, they touch on particular techniques or problems, such as setting up a tin boat, or how to use a bucktail and pork rind for working an inlet.

There are a couple of mid-sized reference books that are important for fishermen with an interest in the particular subjects they cover. C. Boyd Pfeiffer's *Tackle Craft* is the standard book for the tackle tinkerer and the Lefty Kreh/Mark Sosin *Practical Fishing Knots* is the standard book for all you knot buffs. Don't throw out the pictures of terminal knot arrangements you've cut from The Fisherman; some knots have come into recent prominence, like the two hook "Pro Rig," that have not made it into the books yet.

Finally, there is a book about fishing far away that is a pleasure to read even if you aren't planning a vacation. Jim Rizzuto's *Modern Hawaiian Game Fishing* is intriguing and should be of interest to anyone who wants to look afield for ideas with which to experiment. Hawaiian anglers originated a good many offshore fishing practices that are now popular around the world. Anyone who takes a sportfisherman offshore for tuna or billfish should take the time to read this volume.

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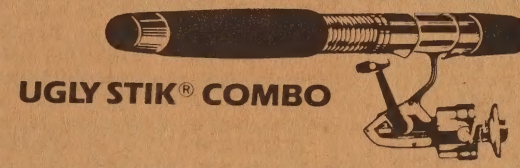

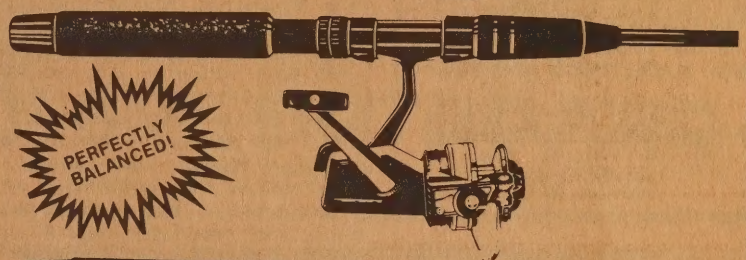

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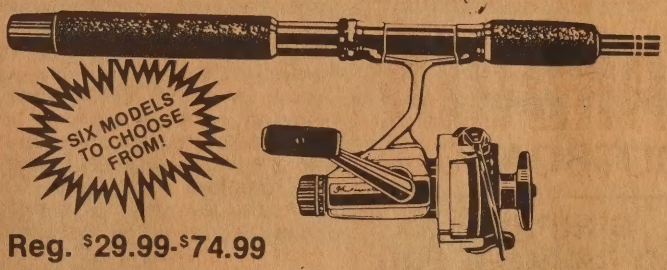

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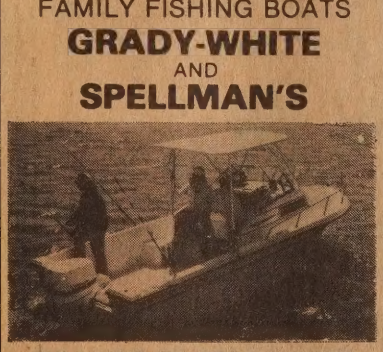

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THE TACKLE DOCTOR

by Russ Wilson

Dear Doc,

I have been trying to locate Bagley's Kill'R B lures in the baby bass (Little Bass) pattern with no success. Has this color pattern been discontinued for the Kill'R B series? I know that the Bagley Bang-O-Lure is currently offered in this color and I purchased a couple of the Kill'R Bs in this pattern awhile back. Got any ideas? *Tony Dolgos.*

Dear Tony,

I contacted the Bagley representative for this area to make sure the Little Bass pattern is currently being marketed in the Kill'R B. You'll be glad to hear it's still being produced.

But, that particular lure comes in a total of 28 different colors and not all are stockd by every tackle shop. Most shop owners will buy a variety of lure colors when ordering through a tackle representative, but may not take every color pattern that is available.

The representative suggests you visit a local shop and ask the owner or ordering agent if he or she will order the model and color you want. If this does not work, the rep suggests you write to Bagley direct, but adds you should attempt this only as a last resort after all other avenues have been exhausted. The address and person to contact is: Mr. Chuck Chander c/o Jim Bagley Bait Co., P.O. Box 110, Winter Haven, FL 33880.

* * *

Dear Doc,

I've heard of some largemouth bass fishermen "doctoring" their swimming plugs by bending the eye to the left or right with a pair of pliers. What is the advantage of doing this to a topwater plug? I've tried it and can't see any difference in the way the plug swims.

Thanks for your assistance. I read the Tackle Doctor first and feel it is one of the best services offered in The Fisherman. *Charles Giddings.*

Dear Charles,

There is definitely a benefit derived by bending the eye where you attach your fishing line or leader. But, if you are using a snap swivel or just a plain swivel you won't see any difference in the way your plugs swim after being doctored. To get the benefit of re-bending the eye you must tie your line or leader direct. Then, when you retrieve the lure it will "kick" to the right or left as it is worked back across the surface.

A lot of bass "experts" work the Bagley Bang-O so it acts like a pop-

per. By sharply lifting the rod to make the plug zip forward and then cranking in the plug normally, the bass anglers who bend the eye of the plug can get it to look like a wounded or dying minnow. Plugs doctored in this manner are deadly in the hands of an experienced plug fisherman.

Rebels, RedFins, Bombers and Hellcats also lend themselves to this doctoring process. However, once you bend the eye you can't retrieve the lure fast or it will swim off to one side or the other and is not as effective a fish catcher as a plug that swims in a straight, but erratic fashion.

* * *

Dear Doc,

I have a small problem that may not seem like much to you or other readers, but it is driving me nuts. I do quite a bit of bait fishing from the shore and seem to be changing bait constantly because each time I try to cast, I toss the bait a country mile but the line only travels 50 yards. I've tried hooking the worms differently, used a soft-handed approach and even went so far as to wrap the worms onto the hook with elastic thread. Nothing works: I keep tossing the bait one way and the hook another.

What is the solution? I know a lot of other guys who do not have this problem when using worms from the surf. *Robert Blank.*

Dear Robert,

You fail to mention what kind of worms you are using. I assume, from your problem, that you are trying to cast sand worms rather than the tougher bloods. Sand worms are extremely soft and will come off the hook easily if you try to whip them out when using a rear-back-and-let-her-go casting style.

Try hooking the sand worm through the mouth. Insert the hook into the worm's mouth and bring it back out through the head no more than a half inch behind the mouth. This is the toughest part of a sand worm and will usually hold the bait securely on the hook so it can be cast. Do not attempt to hook sand worms through the middle for all you'll accomplish is to break the worm.

Elastic thread is great for keeping clams or crabs secure, but isn't of much value when using worms since it will cut through their flesh and cause them to break apart quicker than if no thread were used.

If you are using two or three worms, try hooking each through the head and then pushing them up on the shank of the hook. As you place each worm on the hook, move it up the shank so there is room enough to attach the second and third worm without them bunching up around the barb. Hooked in this manner your sand worms will look alive and will stay firmly attached when cast a moderate distance provided you don't really "lean" into the rod when you make a cast.

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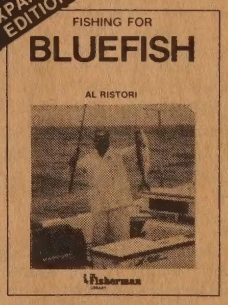

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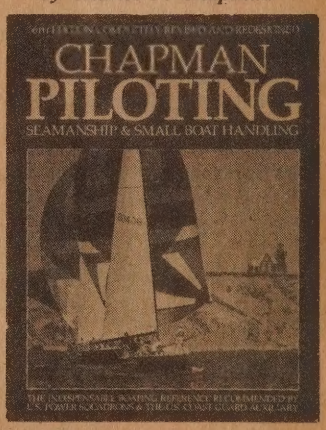

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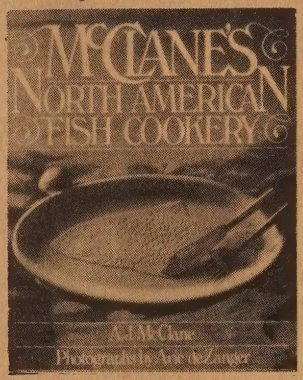

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KEEPING RECORDS FOR BETTER FISHING

by Matt Ahern

This article tells exactly how my records are kept (some of which go back nearly 60 years). But let me say at the beginning that only by dint of effort on your part and faithfully and accurately recording your fishing trips can you guarantee more fish in your bucket.

Actually, record keeping is not something lately dreamed up by good fishermen. Many expert fishermen have been doing it for years—and keeping it a secret. Should you doubt this, check with your nearest striper expert.

Those I know admit they do keep records. But unless you know one of these crackerjack fishermen well, he probably won't allow you to see them. (I've never been able to convince one to do so.) However, I'm sure these experts will agree with me: no aid puts more fish on the beach, or in the boat, than the intelligent use of accurately kept records.

As I say, my records go back a good many years; and having fished for years on a daily basis, I've managed to fill several books.

Actually, I began my sinker bouncing before I began my record keeping, but it wasn't until several years later when I got the idea to keep some sort of fishing log. I knew I was going to do a lot of fishing in my life and it seemed like common sense to want to keep tabs on my activities.

And should I feel in need of a bit of nostalgia, all I do is trot out those early records, written in the long ago when I was knee high to the proverbial grasshopper. Their child-like observations of the mysterious world about me, coupled with poor grammar and sentence structure, is most revealing as to my general lack of schooling. But does that matter? Few of us have the potential of Jack London. What matters is that those early records helped me catch fish.

How valuable are these records to a dedicated fisherman? Well—even today, nearly 60 years later—I still refer to them. Fish do not change their habits. And because of this, when I plan a trip and something doesn't quite ring a bell, I'm likely to dig out those records for some quick checking. They still work.

This doesn't mean that it will take 60 years for your records to become valuable to you. Your first entry can be of immediate help should you plan fishing the same area the following week. After you have completed one entire year of fishing, and faithfully made your entries, you are on your way. Truly, for the fisherman who desires to see his fishing improve, record keeping is "worth its weight in gold."

Elaborate record keeping books aren't necessary. All mine are ordinary school composition books, available anywhere for a mere pittance. The paper is good and holds up well after heavy-handed pawings, which is something to take into consideration.

Get in the habit of recording everything of interest. And everything you believe is odd or unusual. My records contain the following: the time I caught the one-eyed flounder; the occasional left-handed flounder, and the right-handed fluke; the fluke with the light-green back; the completely all-black fluke; the two ling on one hook; the two cod on one hook; the cod with the rubber boot heel in its stomach; the ling whose innards contained a lady's dinner ring (minus the stone); the hackle head with the slice of pickle in its mouth; and the **skimmer** that contained a pink sweater button that came from an area of an airplane disaster that had occurred several weeks before. (Bits of the pink sweater were still attached to the button.)

These particular notations won't help you to catch more fish, but they make for interesting reading on cold winter evenings and they are certain to stir the old memory. And who knows, you may want to show proof to some Doubting Thomas.

But what will help you catch more fish are accurate entries. Be serious about your record keeping. Don't kid. Especially, don't kid yourself. If you caught but 10 flounder at such and such a place and you feel you should have done better, don't indulge in the pitfall of satisfying your ego and state you caught 20. It won't wash.

You may believe you'll remember when you hedged on the truth—but you won't. Remember, there's a reason why you caught but 10 flounder and not 20. Keeping truthful records will eventually tell you why you caught those 10 flounder, but of those mythical 20, they will say nothing.

It is important that you enter weather conditions; wind direction, too. Tide activity should be noted; also be sure to enter on what part of the tide the fish bit best. The approximate weight of each fish should be noted, the largest scale-weighed, if possible.

Outside of making notations when the water is abnormally cold or warm, I've never bothered to take water temperature. This is usually in the realm of the striper fisherman and the freshwater angler. You can do so, of course, and if you do, I'm sure you'll discover some interesting observations that may indeed help you in the future.

To aid you in starting a record book, I've selected an old entry of a fluke fishing trip from one of my books, one which I believe covers what I mean in exact terms. It isn't necessary to make yours as long as this one, unless, as with this one, there is good reason for it.

"July 13, 1958—Sunday: Alone to Island Park for fluke. Fished Schaeffer's Creek off Tom and Larry's Fishing Station. Took 12—10 were fair; two good-sized. Fish would not accept the usual drifted or jigged bait, and two small fluke were the only ones to fall for an experimenting dead line. No sea robins.

"Slow fishing reported all week, but after some experimenting, I found that anchoring and casting near the fishing station and retrieving the bait very slowly got the fish into a feeding mood. Fish wanted only small killies; nothing else worked!

"One of the largest fish followed the bait at least four feet off bottom before striking. Hit very hard. Another fluke had a two inch fluke in its stomach.

"The day began with showers and the fish didn't bite until the rain stopped. Fish needed a lot of encouragement before taking the bait deep enough to set the hook. A slight drag as the fish took the bait, then a slow count to ten assured a hook-up nearly every time. All fish taken on outgoing tide, which seems best in this place.

"Fish: fluke—1½ to 3 lbs. 12. Weather: northeast wind, changing to east on high water. Partial clearing on low water."

As can be seen, on tap is a wealth of information that could be used to my advantage should I decide to make a return trip to the same general area. You will have to agree that with such info, I would have to do little experi-

mentation and I'd also save precious time should the fish again put on their finicky act. If they did, I'd know just what tactics to use.

Okay, okay. I can hear you from here. I can hear you saying that as the fisherman in question, you would surely recall the method used to get the fish biting. So what's all the flack about writing everything down? Well, I'm sure you would remember the exact method used to get those fish in your bucket, but would you remember the exact day? It's doubtful, unless by coincidence the day happened to have an extra-special meaning of its own—like a birthday, for instance. No—don't rely on your memory. Put it down in black and white.

The exact date is important because on that particular day the fish had a reason for acting the way they did. It's quite possible the same conditions responsible for the fish's unorthodox behavior in that particular place may exist each year at the same time, or perhaps in whatever area you may be fishing when you find special methods are necessary to succeed. And don't forget wind direction. And tide. Each play an important part. Put them down!

Incidentally, let me say that for the next three days after that trip, I did follow up my advantage and caught fish with the same method when no one else was doing well at all. On one of those days, I took 19 good sized fluke, with a 5 lber. the largest. It was the only method that worked!

When I returned the following weekend, primed to commit mayhem on the fluke population, the fluke had returned to accepting the usual drifted and jigged baits. I caught but one lone fluke with the method that had produced so well only days before. Why? Who knows. Perhaps some day I'll find out, but in the meantime I'll continue to keep records.

Below is an example of the shorter entry that is found throughout most of my record boosk. As can be seen, these entries take but minutes to record.

"July 8, 1963, Monday: On the Survivor II out of Island Park. Fishing turned sour after several days of good action. Heavy rain all morning. Rough seas. Took three ling and one sea bass off the Stone Barge. Tried off Long Beach for fluke. None. Made a drift in Jones Inlet. Took one average sized fluke here. Stopped at Buoy 20 in Reynold's Channel on way in and took two more fluke. Fish: Fluke, 1½ to 3 lbs., 3; ling, 2 lbs., 3; sea bass, 1 lb.; 1. Weather: heavy seas. Rain on strong east wind."

This entry also contains much information. Reference is made to each fishing area, the amount of fish taken from each spot, and the prevailing weather conditions—which on this particular day was bad, and was probably the reason for the poor fishing.

Notice the use of the word "probably." No fisherman can make positive statements when dealing with nature and its forces.

My records bear me out on this. For instance on September 15, 1963, again aboard the Survivor II, we fished the Iberia Wreck off Long Beach, where we were forced to cut the day short because of strong easterly winds. But this time, the porgies, sea bass, blackfish, plus an occasional blue, came flying over the rail for those fishermen able to stand and fish.

Why? Once again—who knows? But for fishermen deeply interested in Mother Nature and her finny creatures, keeping accurate records of their fishing activities may some day give them the answer.

Don't waste time getting started. Do it now! Get yourself a composition book, hunt up that pen you put away when Adam was a boy and develop a style of your own. I guarantee one thing: as your entries mount up, you will wonder how you ever managed without them.

Write everything down while it is fresh in your memory, otherwise you are sure to overlook something important.

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A BASIC GUIDE TO ROD SELECTION

by Fred Laager

Choosing a fishing rod is no easy matter, especially on Long Island where there are many species of fish available for the catching and there is no one fishing rod that can be said to be as equally as effective on half pound flounder as it is on 20 pound brawling bluefish. For those of us who are new to the sport, the sight of hundreds of fishing rods in a tackle store, arrayed in groups according to size, type, color and price can prove to be a traumatic experience and often the beginner fisherman finds himself lost; not knowing which rod is best for the fishing he will be doing.

Having the right tool always makes the job simpler and more enjoyable. How many times have we all reached for a pair of pliers (the old vice grips) when we couldn't find the right size wrench or socket to fit a nut?

But how much simpler it is when we have the right tools; how much easier and efficient the job is when the correct instruments are at hand. Well, fishing rods are tools and there are specific rods designed for specific purposes. There are styles of rods that suit certain kinds of fishing, certain species of fish and certain places for fishing. There are rods for: big game, for casting, for bay fishing, deep water fishing; rods designed for baitcasting, livelining and fly fishing. With all the rods that are currently on the market today, you could virtually go insane trying to find a stick that is just right for you. The average fisherman or the beginner finds it a difficult task indeed to make a choice when confronted with the many makes, styles and actions of rods being sold today. So, a rudimentary knowledge of what a rod actually does is the first thing to know before running out and purchasing a new pole for the upcoming season.

Rods are basically a device that gives and takes. When you set a hook in a fish's mouth or when you want the ultimate in sensitivity, you want a rod that has less "flex" (almost like a pool cue), with the ability to "take" line in without bending too much. Generally, the stiffer the rod, the more sensitive it is, but when looking for this kind of stick, don't go for the solid fiberglass type. Solid glass rods, though inexpensive, are very heavy. This extra weight takes away from the rod's sensitivity and fatigues the angler's arms when fishing over long periods of time. Though solid glass rods are extremely durable due to their high "crush strength" and are an excellent choice in situations where the rod might be abused; they are, nevertheless, slow in recovery, high in vibration and a poor choice in most cases.

Try to find a rod that is tubular and lighweight composed of graphite, boron, fiberglass or a composite of these materials. This hollow kind of blank is more sensitive than its solid counterpart and utilizes the available material in a higher strength to weight ratio. Graphite, a fiber first introduced in 1973 as a rod building material, is a good choice in a rod in either its pure form or in a composite where graphite and its accompanying strength is coupled with the durability of fiberglass. Graphite has a high tensile modulus (stiffness) and is extremely lightweight (about 2/3 that of glass). It is quick in recovery and low in vibration. Due to its popularity as a rod building material, many rod manufacturers are using graphite in the construction of most of their

(Continued on next page.)

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blanks. But the consumer must be wary in recognizing the differences in these "graphite" rods. Good graphite rods can cost as much as $150 or more while their cheaper counterparts might only carry a hang tag of $30 or so. Both rods might contain the same percentage of graphite, but there is usually a big difference in the quality the manufacturer has put into their construction. When purchasing a pole, ask a salesman to help you weed through the various rods and help you choose one that is right for the kind of fishing you will be doing. A knowledgeable salesman can save you lots of time, and possibly money, by directing you toward those rods with more quality; but don't expect to get the best at a bargain cost. Let price be your guideline in selecting a graphite rod. The ones that cost over $40 are usually okay and the cheaper ones are, well, cheap.

There are times, however, when a "pool cue" type rod has its drawbacks. Though it can set a hook well, it also lets the fish have something solid to pull against. Straightened hooks and broken lines are often the result of using a rod such as this because it doesn't "give" when pressure is exerted in the line. Line choice and reel choice become critical when using a non-flexible rod that can't absorb the jerking motions of a fish during the battle.

To compensate for a stiff fishing pole you must use a reel with a smooth drag that will slip as the fish surges and your line should be elastic and able to stretch a bit so that a quick run doesn't part the line. Monofilament is quite elastic and suits this purpose well. Also, your hooks should be stout and not a wire style such as an Aberdeen. A stout rod, strong line and strong reel, also known as a "meat outfit" is highly productive in circumstances where the quantity of fish in the pail is the concern rather than the quality of the fishing. In short, the meat outfit is deadly on tough mouthed species that are biting readily.

But there are times when fish will be finicky and the stout rod, strong line and strong reel will actually lessen your chances of landing a fish. Heavier lines force you to use more lead to hold bottom in a current and the more lead you use dampens the action of the lure or bait, takes away from the fight of the fish and diminishes any sensitivity the outfit has. Also, the heavier shanked hooks commonly used with this kind of rig tend to frighten fish off. They are obtrusive and hard to put into bait. Although they are great to have on once a fish is hooked, you will find that you rarely hook a fish with them, and what's the good in that?

So a happy medium must be reached in selecting a rod that has just enough "flex" but not too much and the amount of flex that your rod will need will depend on the species of fish that you are angling for and the place you will be fishing. For example, weakfish must be played with a light drag and a limp rod because their jaw structure is very delicate and they can rip the hook right out of their mouth if they have something solid to pull against. At the other end of the spectrum, blackfish are muscular beasts with tough mouths and a desire to swim immediately into rocks when hooked. Here, a stiff rod is in order so that hook setting is maximized and you will be able to lift the fish right off the bottom before he can take the rig into the rocks. And then, there are the other species: bluefish, stripers, porgies, flounder, sea bass, cod, pollock and fluke as well as the offshore species and all of these fish can be bought using various rods from casting to conventional.

In order to keep this discussion to a minimum length, I chose to leave out rods that are used for casting; for choosing a casting rod is a science in itself and is far too complicated to deal with in an offhand manner. In casting rods (spinning rods) guide placement and size is critical and terms such as "nodal point" and "loading the blank" are only a concern for experts trying to get maximum distances from their casts. For most fishermen, it will suffice to say that once you take away the guides from a spinning rod it is, essentially, the same as a conventional blank and is rated accordingly. So, understanding how a conventional rod works will invariably help you in comprehending spinning rods.

Recently, rods have been classed by most manufacturers as being light (L), medium (M) or heavy (H) or a mixture of these three. These specifications apply both to freshwater and saltwater rods, so be sure you know which you are looking at. A freshwater rod classed as heavy (H) is at best, a medium (M) to light (L) rod in saltwater. Conversely, a light (L) saltwater rod is usually a heavy (H) rod in freshwater.

As a salesman for Edelman's Sporting Goods I am constantly dealing with thousands of customers who come to me to outfit them for fishing. On a one-to-one basis I ask them what kind of fish they will be angling for and where, or under what conditions they will be fishing. Often, a customer will only know what he will be fishing for, but will have very little insight into the currents and tides he will be fishing in. Often they will say, "Oh, I want to fish for fluke so I guess I need a fluke rod?" This, however, is not enough information upon which to make a decision when it comes to selecting a fishing rod because a rod suited for fluke fishing on flats, like those encountered in the Great South Bay, would be totally inadequate for fluke fishing at Montauk Point where the currents are stronger, the amount of lead used to hold bottom, greater, and the size of the fish, generally larger. Also, some people will say, "I want a rod for bluefishing," but fail to realize that bluefish come in many different sizes, are found in many

different places and at many different depths. No one rod can adequately fight 3 lb. cocktails and at the next moment be used to jig 8 ounce jigs for 20 lb. alligators at ten fathoms. Clearly, a difference in the size of the quarry warrants a difference in the size of the rod used; so before you can choose the right rod, you must have some idea of the size of the fish you are seeking, their environment and the size and weight of the lures you will be fishing.

Unfortunately, as I sit here penning these words I don't know what kind of fish you will choose to pursue and I don't know where or under what conditions you will be fishing but, having fished extensively all about Long Island for the past 20 years I can pretty much state what kind of rod is suited for certain species of fish in the various places around the Island. But I cannot tell you what is best for you. You must be the judge of that. I can only guide you toward those rods that have traditionally been the favorites on certain species of fish.

For flounder fishing a 5 to 6 foot rod is best in a light to medium action while fluke and weakfish are most often sought with rods ranging from 6 to 7 feet in a medium action. Sea bass and porgies are usually taken on rods from 6 to 7½ feet in length and a medium heavy action is often the choice of pinhookers specializing in these species. Bluefish, stripers and blackfish require a heavy action in most cases and a rod in a 6 to 7 foot measurement. Cod, pollock and some other deep water species complete the list with a rod in a 7 to 8 foot length and a heavy to extra heavy action being a fine choice and the best suited for the job.

Remember, these recommendations are merely a guideline for those unfamiliar with the finer points of the angling world. In the natural progression of the sport each angler will undoubtedly give up his heavier gear and try to take larger fish using smaller outfits. As the reflexes of the fisherman become finely tuned, there is no longer the need for larger tackle that will compensate for his errors because he now makes fewer errors. He relies more on his skill and reactions and less on his tools. He puts aside the tackle he used as a neophyte and graduates into something worthy of his experience. The old 7 foot meat stick he once used for bluefishing is now put into the corner to be given to a beginner who will find it more suitable to his needs. It is now replaced by the smaller light action outfit (gear suitable for someone willing to give the fish a chance) and it is in giving the fish more of a chance that he calls himself a sportsman. Perhaps with the lighter gear he will lose a few big fish now and then, but isn't that what "fishing" is all about? Otherwise, they would have called it "catching" and I, for one, think "fishing" sounds a whole lot better than "catching" and is often the easier of the two to do.

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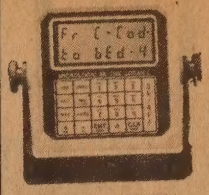

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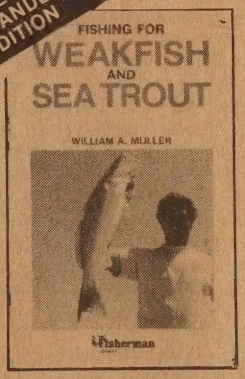

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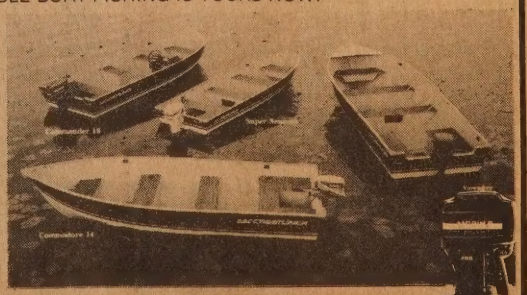

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THE PENDULUM CAST

by J.L. Jenkins

Here's an aspect of surf fishing you can practice all winter long.

Few are the surfmen who haven't had an occasion to look on helplessly as a school of game fish scatter bait just out of reach of their best casts. It's a frustrating and memorable experience, but not one that needs to be repeated. Proper selection of gear and an adjustment of technique can increase a surfcaster's range and help put those fish on the beach.

In this country, Ron Arra's name is synonymous with long distance casting. Ron is the current American casting champion, a title he's won four years in a row, and the first American to break the 700 foot mark in tournament casting. The predominant technique used by competitors in these tournaments is known as the pendulum cast. As an ardent fisherman, Ron has taken his mastery of the pendulum cast to the beach. In its modified, fishing form it can add to the distance you achieve and the pleasure you take from your own surfcasting.

The pendulum cast is most often used in conjunction with a conventional, revolving spool reel. The qualities Ron looks for in selecting a conventional reel are a low profile, a flanged spool and the absence of a level wind mechanism. Thumb pressure is more easily applied on a low profile reel than it is on a model that sits comparatively high. A spool with a flange or bell is crucial because, rather than lay his thumb on the center of the spool, Ron positions it on the upraised portion of the spool's edge. This saves the line and his thumb, from enduring the heat build-up of a distant cast. Level wind mechanisms, while having their place, reduce distance by adding unwanted friction as line passes through the level wind guide.

Ron's ideal rod for the surf is an 11½ footer with a moderate flex down the length of the blank. On this he positions the reel according to his right arm's reach, as this provides for a full thrust when casting and proper follow through in the aftermath.

For line he employs 20 lb. mono for running line and a 40 lb. shocker to absorb the force generated by powering a 3 to 5 ounce lure 400 to 500 feet into the surf. He's had good success joining shocker to running line with an overhand and uni-knot combination. Proper length for the shocker is determined by having three wraps around the spool and enough line out through the guides for the lure to hang down to the reel when the rod is held upright.

To prepare for the modified pendulum cast, the lure should be at reel length from the rod's tip and the shocker-to-running-line knot must be clear of your thumb's placement on the spool or its bell. Begin the cast by standing with feet squared at shoulder width and pointing down the beach's length. With the rod butt in your left hand and reel in right, hold the rod at the 11:30 position, your left arm crossed over your torso and its hand holding the butt at hip height. Bring the tip to twelve o'clock and then in a smooth fashion, lower it to ten o'clock, thus initiating the pendulum with an outswing that should bring the lure to just about tip height. Pause for a fraction of a second at the end of this outswing and then in one fluid motion execute the pendulum's inswing by bringing the tip to the two o'clock position. At the top of the inswing your left arm should be extended and your right arm cocked over the right shoulder. Weight is supported on your right leg as in the backswing of a right-handed batter and your hips and torso are wound up and directed away from the water. Again, hesitate as the swinging lure reaches its peak. At this point you'll feel the blank begin to load, in effect giving the cast a head start by flexing the rod before it's brought around and foward.

Arms, torso, hips and body weight all contribute to the delivery of the cast. From its cocked position the right arm beings to push straight as the left arm pulls from straight to cocked. Simultaneously the torso and hips begin to unwind and weight transference is initiated from right to left leg. As this push-pull of the arms, unwinding of the torso and forward movement of weight is continued, the blank is brought to a fully loaded condition.

Spool release is pure timing and depends upon an intimacy with one's chosen tackle—that means practice. The energy of your combined body movement and its communication to the blank must reach its climax at the instant you ease thumb pressure and release the cast lure. Note that the right arm has been thrust to an extended position while the left has been pulled in next to the chest; shoulders and hips have been fully unwound and face the surf while weight transference has been completed.

As follow through continues with the tip aimed at the path of the cast, your thumb must create as little drag as possible while maintaining a spool speed exactly coordinated with the outgoing lure. Too slow a spool speed will rob you of distance; too fast will cause a backlash. Ron advises to train your ear as much as your thumb, since a steady spin produces an even and audible whirr. Stop the spool at the instant of the lure's splashdown.

Finally, great care must be taken in laying the line evenly upon retrieval, as this is the basis of maximizing your next cast's distance and predictability.

Study these casting movements till you have a mental picture of the cast from start to finish. Then once on the beach, work on duplicating these images. The result will be smoother, longer casts and quite possibly the satisfaction of improved sport in the surf.

Photo One: The pendulum's outswing: feet are squared at shoulder width and pointing down the beach's length. Rod tip has been lowerd from twelve o'clock to two o'clock, the lure reaching to tip height.

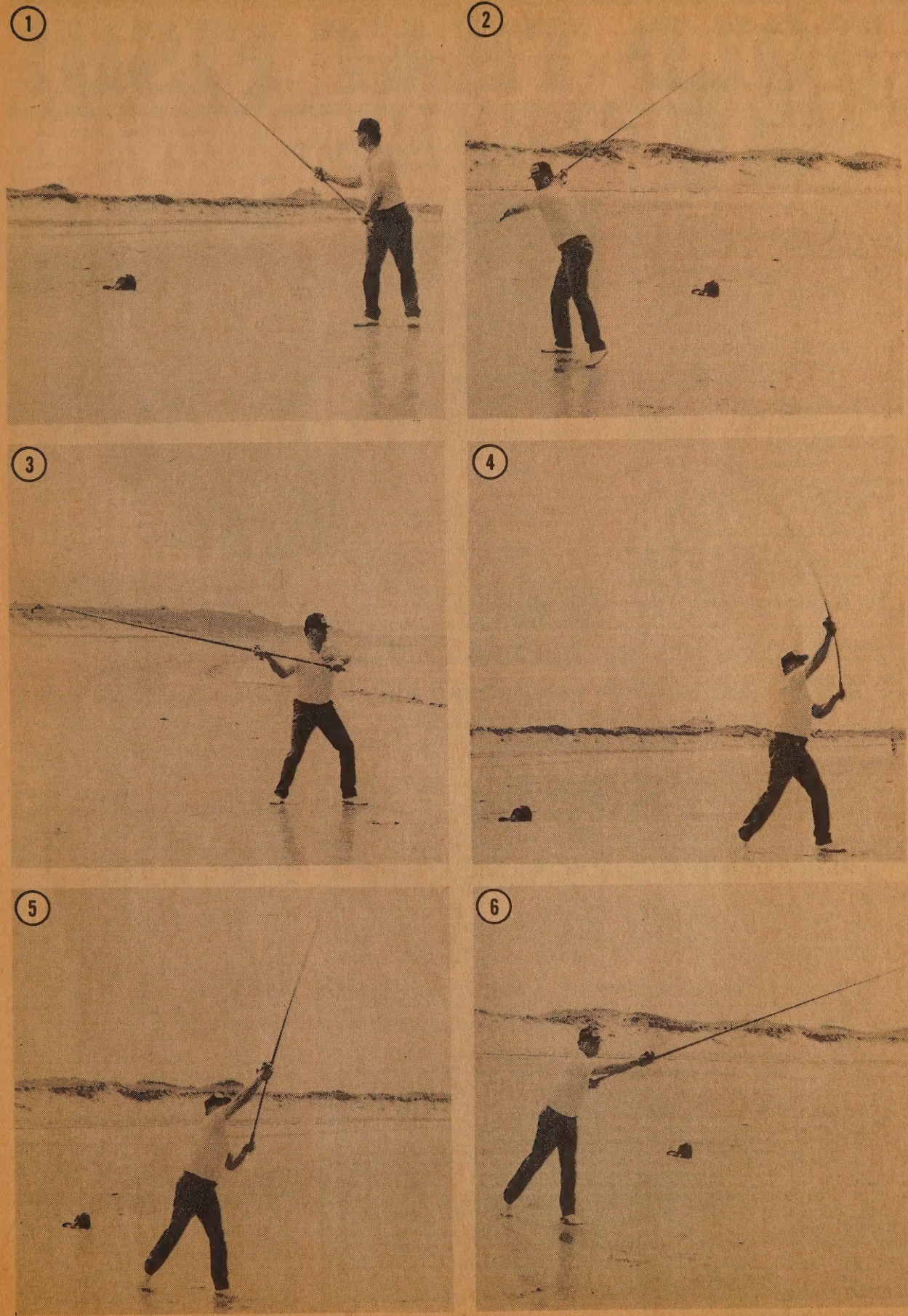
Photo Two: The pendulum's inswing: left arm is extended, right arm cocked and its hand over the right shoulder. Hips and torso are wound up and directed away from the water. Weight is supported on right leg.

Photo Three: the start of delivery: right arm begins to straighten, left arm is being pulled towards chest. Torso and hips begin to unwind and weight transference is initiated from right to left leg.

Photo Four: Delivery continued. Push-pull of arms, unwinding of torso and weight transference continues. Blank is brought to loaded condition.

Photo Five: Spool release and delivery. Blank has been released of its energy. Right arm is straight, left arm tucked in next to chest. Body faces surf.

Photo Six: Follow through. Tip is pointed at the flight of the cast. Thumb keeps spool revolving at speed consistent to that of lure. Spool is stopped at the instant of splashdown.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HOLD THAT FISH!

by Brion Babbitt

Successfullly luring and defeating fish, especially large marine game fish, can be considered basically a two part game. The first phase entails locating and intercepting the quarry, and culminates with convincing the creature that your hooked offering, be it an artificial or natural bait, is good to eat. The second, and certainly no less important, phase begins with firmly embedding the hook in the critter's jaw (for what we hope is the duration of the battle), thereby initiating the struggle for freedom that pits man and tackle versus the quarry. If all goes well the fish will ultimately lie vanquished, completely subdued at fight's end.

However, all too often we overlook the necessity of carefully planning and providing for phase two in our haste to complete phase one. A lot of otherwise good anglers who meticulously select fishing venue, time, tide, lures and bait and the tackle to be deployed, fail to take full cognizance of the success-determining phase two. We've all been guilty at one time or another, but learning to plan for **after** the strike is no more difficult than preparing for before the fish's attack.

Planning for phase two involves both tackle and tactics, and a careful balance of the two. Hook selection and preparation is critical, as are the techniques used to plant the hook, hold the fish throughout the battle and tire the fish to the point of submission. Violate any necessary feature of phase two and the encounter could come to an abrupt and unexpected ending.

Different hooks, obviously, are designed with varying uses in mind. Long shank hooks are aimed at fish that aren't overly powerful, since a strong fish is quite capable of bending the long shank. Long shanks such as the Carlisle are easier to extract from a fish's maw, especially when they've been deeply hooked, but they are a poor choice with fish much larger than common-sized fluke, small bluefish, weakfish and spotted sea trout.

Short shank, forged hooks are much better suited to holding bigger fish such as jumbo bluefish or channel bass, for example. The shorter shank, naturally, gives the fish less leverage in springing open the hook and the forging—the flattening of the hook in the plane of stress—provides more strength. Moreover, most of these hooks (the Siwash is an exception) do not have symmetrical U-bends simply because the geometry of this style hook is more susceptible to opening.

Many fish, like this weakfish, require a deft touch after the hook-up to assure that the quarry isn't lost.

The length of the hook point is an important issue in deciding which model to use for a particular species. Generally for hard-mouthed fish such as striped bass, or in the extreme case, a tarpon, a shorter distance between barb and tip of the point is desired. Since the point is shorter, it's easier to sink the point past the barb—a critical prerequisite in order to hold the fish confidently throughout the fight. However, shorter hook points tend to hold less strenuously. You may have to temper your point choice if your quarry frequently leaps. Aerial antics will dislodge a shorter point—all else equal—before removing a longer one. If you've been having problems with big bluefish that become airborne, perhaps a hook model with a longer point will up your score.

Offset hook points can increase your success by virtue of the fact that the point is canted away from the plane of the hook shank. Such a hook tends to twist on setup to find a good grip. A flat hook can on occasion slide right out of a fish's mouth. We prefer an offset hook point when sharking, and religiously use the Mustad #7699 in 9/0 size with these creatures that tend to be among the more difficult to solidly impale. Offset hooks are used less frequently with artificial lures since these hooks tend to cause spinning. For the record, a hook is called reversed if the point is to the left while holding the hook shank up with the eye towards you and is known as kirbed if to the right.

Today's focus in saltwater fishing is on light or even what may be termed super-light tackle spot. This is challenging sport fishing of the highest caliber, made even more attractive by the possibility of IGFA line class records. But one critical fact that shouldn't be overlooked is that light tackle must be balanced with the hooking agent. Outsized hooks used with heavier gear, and the heavier lines, cannot be handled with ligher line tests. The key to light tackle success on the grounds is to employ somewhat down sized hooks that have been properly prepared. Streamlining of the hook point with a mill bastard file is important to de-burr the point and correctly reshape it to proper tolerances. Triangulation should be followed to produce slick surfaces and a cutting edge just in front of the barb. You can even work the bottom of the point opposite the barb to yield two more sharp edges for rapid penetration with a minimum of rod pressure, but be careful never to weaken the hook point.

Drags are important to holding fish after hookup and they should be smooth and non-binding under the pressure of a long run. This is a pivotal point when chasing fish with light or ultralight tackle; a slight drag hesitation or bind will instantaneously

part the whispy, threadlike line. We prefer to fish light tackle with a relatively loose drag and impart added manual "drag" as needed by gently palming the spool rim. Deft hand pressure can even be used when setting the hook at the beginning of the fight. Also, when nearing the end of a struggle we routinely loosen a drag when tied into a big fish to prevent a sudden last minute surge from breaking the line. To protect your catch, back off a bit on the drag and should the fish make a determined last minute dash for freedom point the rod at the fish to remove most of the resistance to pulling line from the reel.

Light tackle fishing can be fundamentally instructive as well as fun in its own right. Years ago when I first limbered up with ultralight fishing on bluefish it became obvious that some techniques that are taken for granted may not be justified in their use, or at least not under all circumstances. Typically an angler attempts to plant a barb in a fish's mouth by vertically, or near so, jabbing back on the rod tip in rapid succession. The amount of pressure applied at the hook with typical spinning gear and using average monofilament line is only on the order of several pounds of force. The task is even more herculean with unusually light gear and thread mono. A better technique is to apply constant pressure away from the fish to firmly pin the hook. Arcing the rod horizontally with a large sweep of the rod tip can do much more to actually apply maximum pressure at the hook point, considering the inherent stretch of monofilament line. However, some of the hook setting chore will be assumed by the fish as it steams away from the angler, fighting rod bend, reel drag and line friction in the water.

One of the most overlooked fish fighting tools by the boat angler is just that: the boat. Boats, particularly small craft, can be used to chase down a fish that has taken line precariously into its backing. Since smaller boats are highly agile they can be used to help whip a big fish that's being fought on light tackle. To help wear down a fish, run the boat at right angles to the fish and keep the angler positioned abreast of the quarry such that the line is continually being pulled to the rear of the fish. When a fish moves left, you move right and vice versa. Every time the fish attempts flight he must buck a full opposing force. The use of the boat to help defeat a fish is certainly not novel. Big game specialists have been "backing down" on large fish for years to set the fish up for the final stages of capture.

Seducing a game fish to attack a lure or bait is often no trivial task, but holding a fish after it has chosen to inhale an offering is no obvious matter either. Sharpen up your fish holding tactics, both literally and figuratively, and you'll be sure to improve your overall score.

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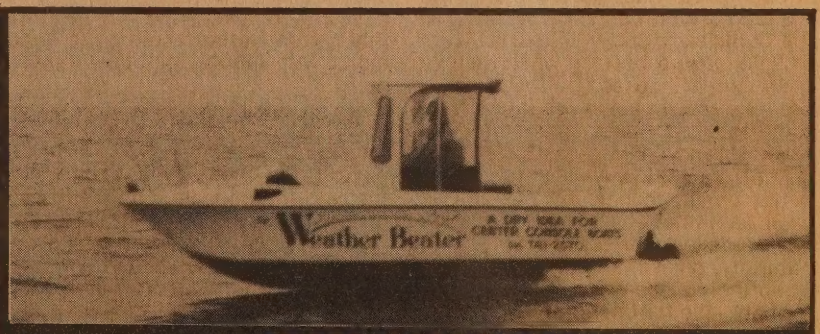

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DECEMBER ROUNDUP

BY FRED GUARDINEER

A 1,174 LB. BLUE MARLIN, A POTENTIAL N.Y. STATE RECORD, CAUGHT LAST SUMMER BY 19 YR. OLD BILL SWEEDLER OF WESTPORT, CONN. FISHING 70 MILES OFF MONTAUK ABOARD HIS BOAT WITH GUIDE HARRY CLEMENZ ALONG...THE 14 FT. LONG BILLFISH HIT ONE OF CLEMENZ'S HOMEMADE LURES AND WAS ONLY 100 LBS. SHORT OF THE IGFA ALL TACKLE WORLD RECORD.

A 10 LB. MYSTERY FISH NEVER SEEN BEFORE IN NEW JERSEY WAS IDENTIFIED BY THE PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AS A EURASIAN SILVER CARP KNOWN TO REACH 100 LBS. IT JUMPED INTO THE BASS BOAT OF STARTLED DAVID COPPERTHWAITE OF EDISON, N.J. WHO WAS NIGHT FISHING THE NEARBY MILLSTONE.

A 67-INCH TIGER MUSKELLUNGE FOUND DEAD ALONG THE SHORE OF THE MONONGAHELA RIVER WOULD HAVE BEEN A PENNSYLVANIA STATE RECORD...

...IF CAUGHT ON HOOK AND LINE. THE HUGE HYBRID WAS TOO DECOMPOSED TO BE WEIGHED AND APPARENTLY DIED WHILE TRYING TO SWALLOW A DUCK!

A 2 LB. FLOUNDER CAUGHT IN JAMAICA BAY, L.I. BY EDWARD HILDENDORF WAS FOUND TO HAVE BEEN CAUGHT, TAGGED AND RELEASED AT THE SAME SPOT TWO YEARS AGO BY AL TRINIDAD WHEN THE FLATTY WAS 10 INCHES LONG. NOW 15 INCHES LONG, THE FLAT LADY SPAWNED TWICE.

2000 TROUT (*BROWNS AND RAINBOWS*) HAVE BEEN STOCKED IN CONNECTICUT'S SAUGATUCK RESERVOIR IN REDDING AND WESTON NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC BY PERMIT. THE 868-ACRE 100 FT. DEEP LAKE ALSO HAS GOOD POPULATIONS OF LARGEMOUTH BASS AND YELLOW PERCH.

AN ALBINO CHANNEL CATFISH WAS CAUGHT IN THE JUNIATA RIVER, PA. THE RARE 16-INCH FISH, A TRUE ALBINO WITH PINK EYES, WAS LANDED BY RON TOROK OF LEWISTON WHO KEPT HIS CATCH ALIVE IN A COOLER... IT NOW RESIDES IN A PRIVATE POND WHERE IT WILL THRIVE AND CAN BE OBSERVED.

BEST FISHING DAYS FOR DECEMBER WHEN THE MOON IS BETWEEN NEW AND FULL ARE DEC. 1-16.

STEELHEAD STRATEGIES

by Rich Giessuebel

The season isn't over for fishermen willing to brave the snow and cold in search of trophy steelhead.

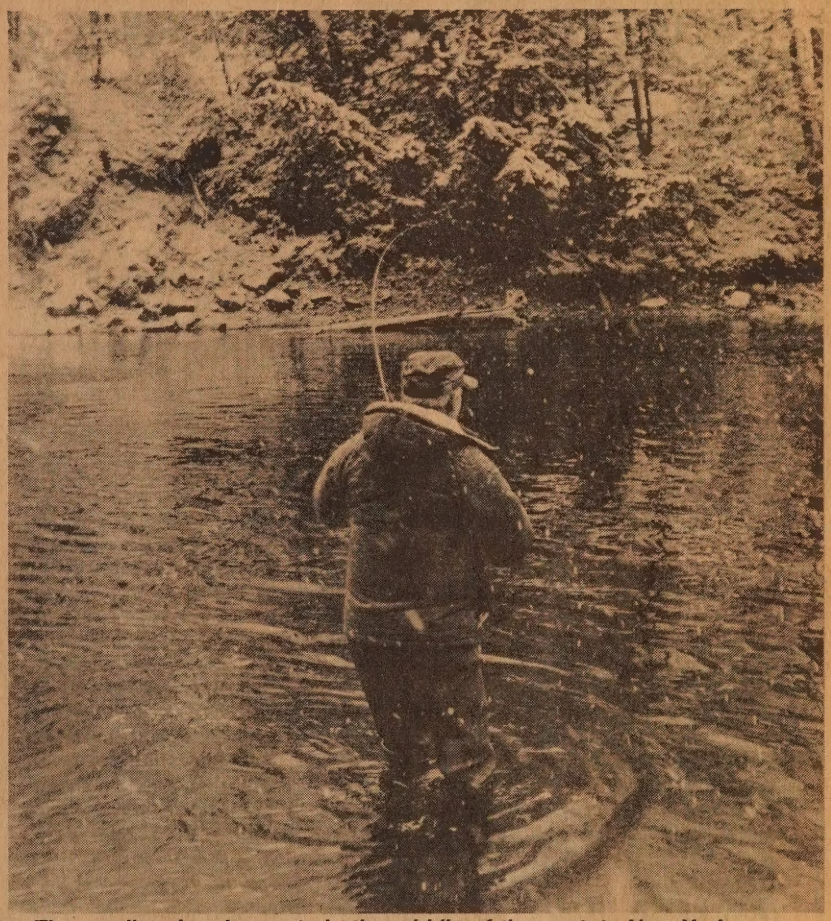
There isn't anything I'd rather do than try for steelhead in upstate New York. The setting is one that makes fishing for this species truly a fisherman's sport. Cold, relentless weather, snow often waist deep, wind, squalls and whiteouts make fishing for steelies a sport for the dedicated. And no crowds during this time of year.

From October, steelhead rainbow trout may decide to enter any of the many tributaries found emptying into Lake Ontario. Unlike salmon, steelhead don't necessarily return to the river of their origin. If they're along the coast and a particular river is flowing high, the steelhead will get into the water entering the lake and follow it upstream. It just so happens that the major rivers have the strongest flows, therefore, more steelhead enter the major tributaries.

The major tribs where you can find good steelhead action include the Niagara River, 18-Mile Creek, the Genesee River, the Oswego and Salmon Rivers, and the Sandy Creeks (be careful here, because the Little Sandy Creek is off-limits from October 1st until November 30th each year to allow the landlocked salmon to enter and spawn unmolested).

Another word of caution before we begin must also be given now. The steelhead region rests in the middle of the upstate New York snow belt. This region receives much snowfall every year. Many of the storms are unpredictable, because they just blow in off the lake. Whiteouts and sudden squalls occur all the time and no one can ever be quite certain of which days will be better than others. The best way to handle this precarious situation is to look for a good high pressure system to be affecting the territory. Then if you're lucky, you may expect three good days of weather. Fronts and low pressure systems almost always guarantee poor conditions. High pressure systems also guarantee the cold. So, be forewarned and be careful.

Steelhead are long and sleek varieties of rainbow trout. They are stocked in tributaries in the spring of each year. From the tribs, they migrate out into Lake Ontario. There they spend up to four years feeding and fattening up. Finally, once the spawning urge strikes, they head for the nearest river pushing enough water to guarantee them successful passage upstream to where they might find suitable conditions necessary to conduct a sucessful spring spawn.



The steelhead region rests in the middle of the upstate New York snow belt. ***Photo by Frank Daignault.***

Spawning actually takes place in the spring. Therefore, fish entering in the fall must wait or "holdover" while waiting for the favorable conditions to prevail. Once spring arrives, new fish enter the rivers and along with the holdovers, spawn. Once having fulfilled their inbred spawning function, the fish, now called "spawnouts," attempt to return to the lake. For some, the arduous task becomes all consuming and they die. For others, fishermen lining the banks of the rivers from late October on into early April prove to be their demise.

One thing for certain about the steelhead is their eagerness to please. On some days, you can't keep them off a hook; while on others, you'd swear that there wasn't another living fish left. On days such as these, here's what you should try to do: the first thing to do is to lighten your leader. Since most fishermen employ from 8 to 10 lb. test leaders, attach about three feet of lesser pound test line to the tip of your leader. The union of the two lines can be effectively made using a blood knot. However, never try to use a blood knot when your leader material is over twice the pound test of what you're trying to add to the tip. For example, don't try to add a 4 lb. test tip to 10 lb. test leader.

To best accomplish adding light tips to leaders, you should use prepared 6 to 9 foot lengths of leader with

(Continued on next page.)

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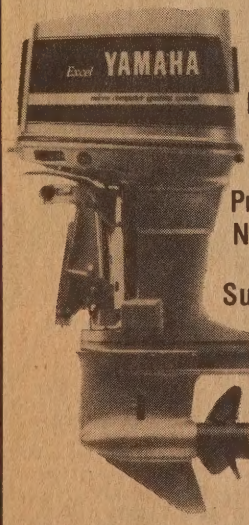

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tippet strengths of from 4 to 10 lb. test. The 4 lb. test leader can be effectively reduced to a 2 lb. test tip with a blood knot and the 10 lb. test leader to a 6 lb. test tip and so on!

One way you can add a tip of less than one half the pound test of the leader is by doubling up the end of the light tip material and then make the blood knot using the doubled end. Although this is possible, the knot itself is rather weak and should be changed often. In the frigid temperatures found in the northland, it's best to use the other process listed above.

When using spinning tackle, adhere to the same rules. For 8 lb. test terminal tackle, don't go below 4 lb. test tips. If using 2 lb. test tips, it's advised you be using 4 lb. test outfits.

When fishing 4 lb. test tip or less, you should try to use a noodle rod. These long rods, 9 to 12 feet or more in some cases, readily absorb the brunt of the battle. They take much pressure off the line. If using 2 lb. test tip, a noodle rod is a must. The rod also is tall enough to help the angler avoid obvious river snags. However, if fished in small streams where there's a different problem around every bend, don't attempt to fish with such sophisticated tackle.

Another thing that you must be aware of while using extremely light outfits is that the weight required to keep your bait near the bottom will change dramatically. I, for one, do not use any weight at all when fishing 4 lb. test line or lighter. The reason for this is because the light line creates very little water drag. Therefore, I use a heavy bait instead of a weight. With a heavy bait, I can cast far and expect my bait to get down deep into the river. Through this process, far fewer bottom snagging encounters are experienced.

As for a heavy bait, perhaps the best is a "gum drop," which can be fashioned to look like a spawn bag. Although you can use spawn bags, which are heavy enough to cast, they are very light in the water and can't get down deep enough (when fished in a current) to be successful. The outcome is that you're rewarded with very few snags, but also with no steelhead. With the gum drop, night crawler, or weighted nymph (all heavy baits), you can be reasonably sure to get your bait down deep even in modest currents and perhaps catch a few steelhead.

Other things that you must concern yourself with are the current itself, and how far you must cast. The swifter the current, the heavier the bait or weight must be (for some swift currents, you must use a weight). Also, the further the cast, the lighter the weight must be. You much reach a point in your cast where the weight can reach the goal, and isn't so heavy that it'll immediately go to the bottom. These are careful considerations that successful steelhead fishermen must make.

Let's take a closer look at them. True steelhead are bottom huggers, but they are also very inquisitive. Therefore, pass a bait close to them, and they may very well come out of their holding pattern and investigate. Nine times out of ten, a strike will follow. In the past, I've seen wool balls passing by at a very high rate of speed get investigated and struck. However, in order to be successful, the bait had to be near the holding position. If the current is too fast, the bait will simply drift by overhead and the fish will never budge. Therefore, you must try to figure out just how strong the current is and here's how to do that.

Put on some heavy bait or a weight and bait rig and cast out. If the bottom isn't encountered somewhere along the drift, cast more upstream. The further you cast upstream, the deeper the bait will get into the river. If the bottom isn't encountered in this section of river by this process, add more weight. On the other hand, if the bottom is encountered, reduce that amount of weight you are using, or cast more across stream and not as much upstream.

For truly experienced fishermen, get close to the bottom and never touch it. However, every rule has its exception. When the current is so swift, and you can see or know that there are steelhead holding in it, then add enough weight to allow your weight to reach the bottom, while keeping the bait out in front of it. Expect many bottom, rig ending snags. The rule of thumb here is, though, you must do what you have to do and if that means getting snagged a few times then you have to do it. But remember, if you don't have to add weight and get snagged, then by all means avoid this annoying situation.

For long casts, again cast upstream until success or a snag is encountered. Then, do not cast higher than this position or many more snags will be the result. Remember, it's best to fish moderate currents with less weight and few snags than it is to fish anything else.

Where lures are concerned, steelhead are either on or off. Some days you can catch them with spinners; other days they'll have nothing to do with them. Floaters are another alternative.

With spinning lures, cast them across the stream or slightly upstream. Let them get deep and then begin your retrieve. Steelhead will usually get drawn out of a holding area by the passing lure. Eventually, when the lure reaches the end of its swing, the interested fish is most likely to jump on. Therefore, make certain that the bottom of your lure's swing is in an area where the fish will be able to strike the lure. For example, if the bottom of the swing is just beyond the end of the pool, it's most unlikely that you will get a strike. Make certain to be about mid or upper pool and allow the lure to swing through and hold where there's sufficient water available for the big

fish to come into and strike the lure.

Certain regulations exist on certain streams for particular lures. On the Salmon River, spinning lures can only have a single hook. No trebles are allowed. Be certain to check your DEC Regulations Handbook to keep abreast of any future changes. Also, on the Salmon River, floating lures are only allowed to have one set of treble hooks. Therefore, all floating lures with more than one set of treble hooks are illegal and can get you fined on this river.

For floating lures, the Luhr Jensen Hotshots are most heavily fished in most rivers. They flutter effectively in even very weak currents. The best way to employ a floating lure is to fish it from above the head of a pool. Pay line off your reel and allow the lure to float ahead of you and get into position above the head of the pool. Steelhead love to hold in this onrushing water. Once the lure is in position, point your rod at the lure and engage your reel. Move the lure around and allow it to compete for position with any steelhead that may be in the area.

The strongly territorial steelhead will often take great exception to the competing lure and smack it immediately. If this is the case, hang on and lift your rod's tip to directly over your head. This action will set the hook and as long as you maintain constant pressure, the prize should be yours. However, if no strikes come from the head of the pool, slowly walk downstream and allow the lure to get further ahead of your into the pool. Now, stop walking and allow the lure to dig down deeply again.

Through this process, you can effectively fish the entire pool. As stated earlier, there may be fish in the pool that just weren't biting and you may want to begin the entire process over again, or you may want to switch over and fish some bait. In any case, if one technique doesn't work today, don't give up on it. Tomorrow it will probably be very effective. So, practice all of the above and when the time comes, be ready to do exactly what's needed.

Another sure way to attract and take steelhead is with flies. Big streamers are most attractive, but nymphs and large wet fly patterns also succeed. Remember, get the fly where the fish are. This means deep! Therefore, it's more important to use weight forward fast sinking fly line and tapered leader than it is to fish a particular variety of fly. This outfit will help you get the fly down deep into the river where the trout will be able to do the rest.

Well, perhaps the hardest thing about eastern steelheading is getting by the weather. Once in the river, however, you are going to have to pay attention to detail. Current is the name of the game and to be successful, it's going to require getting your offering deep. Try at all costs to avoid any snag which will truly test your knot tying abilities in cold weather.

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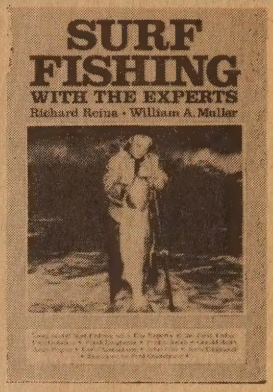

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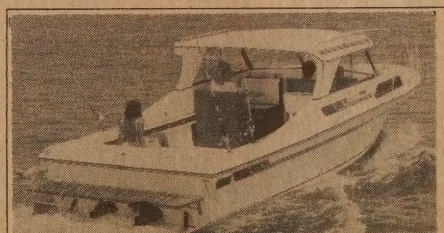

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THOUGHTS ON COLD WATER IMMERSION

by Einar "Doc" Grell

If you are a sailor or fisherman, the chances of being dunked in cold water is always a possibility. If you are an intelligent person you should give considerable attention to what will happen to your body in cold water if you go overboard for one reason or another. Duck hunters are not excluded from this predicament. What provisions have you made for such a situation? If you think like most boatmen, you have already concluded "It won't happen to me," or "When my time comes, it comes." However, we know from those who have narrowly escaped death from cold water immersion that these statements come from the mouths of fools. The following statements are addressed to those who wish to survive. The problem involved is that of hypothermia or more simply put—freezing to death.

Simply speaking, hypothermia is the reaction of the human body to cold water over a given time period. It is not drowning; it is freezing to death. Assume that you are wearing your normal cold weather fishing clothes and find yourself in cold water for one reason or another. What will happen to you physically? If you are a warm weather sailor or fisherman, do not exclude yourself from hypothermia. The human body also loses body heat to the water in tropical water. The only difference is that you have more time to live if you are dumped in warmer waters. If you have been swimming in the Caribbean, you know that after a time in the water you do get chilled. As long as your body gets chilled, you have the hypothermia problem.

Within a couple of seconds after falling into cold water, you will begin to gasp for air and your muscles will begin to tense up. Cramps will begin to form in your extremities and movement of your legs and arms will be very difficult. Progressive immobility is occurring. Where first you felt pain from the cold water, you now are becoming insensitive to pain. You are experiencing a complete slowing down of your body and mental functions. Strange sensations are being felt. Your unprotected body being preserved by your life preserver, if you put one on, is in reality prolonging the agony of your predicament. You are being dangled in the ocean as you slowly freeze to death. As your body reacts to the cold water by protecting its essential parts, blood flow is rapidly being restricted from your other extremities. Your body temperature is dropping rapidly. When the temperature of your body, especially your brain, cools to about 90 degrees, you will become unconscious until death occurs. This gruesome reaction of the human body to cold water is known as "hypothermia." Add this word to your marine vocabulary and take the necessary action.

Before giving recommendations for how to survive with anti-exposure suits, one word should be said for life jackets or life preservers. I am not suggesting that you burn yours, but modern science and technology has given us an alternate to freezing to death while being dangled in freezing water.

It is the foolish man who spends thousands of dollars in outfitting his boat for pursuing fish while for his own personal safety and survival he spends a few bucks for a life jacket.

Doc Grell demonstrates the buoyancy of a survival suit.

This item is probably the cheapest piece of equipment that he has on his boat. Such reasoning just doesn't make sense. For the sport fisherman who has radar, VHF radios, expensive depth meters and fish finders, I have but one question to ask: What do you have aboard your ship that will keep you alive in cold water while you are awaiting rescue while contemplating the immensity of the sea?

What I am suggesting is that every fisherman and sailor should have for immediate use: an anti-exposure suit. These suits are easily carried, stored and put on when the unexpected occurs. There are many excellent brands available, amongst which are those made by Imperial, Fitz Wright, Bayley, Jeltek, Beaufort, Helly Hansen and Multifabs. The price range for these suits is presently between $250 to $450. For those who say that they are expensive, I ask the question "What is your life worth?" Unfortunately, there are many among us who either have a death wish or are just plain ignorant as to what can occur in cold water.

An excellent suit which I have purchased and carry constantly aboard my boat or when fishing on another boat is one made by Imperial Manufacturing Company of Bremerton, Washington. Yes, suits are also provided for my crew. Many of my friends have already made similar purchases. The suit I use is 3/16 inch neoprene foam which resembles a very baggy Dr. Denton kiddy pajama suit. It has the advantage of complete coverage, positive buoyancy, floats high out of the water and is very easy to put on with all of your cold or warm weather clothes. The suit keeps you completely dry. It has been tested in 38 degree water, air temperature 20 degrees, wind 35 knots, by fishermen from New Hampshire who spent 18 hours in the cold North Atlantic Ocean without injury. Survival in these waters without a survival or anti-exposure suit is no longer than 30 minutes. Similar suits have been tested by volunteer sailors from the U.S. Navy in the cold waters of Puget Sound for similar time exposures. Such suits are standard equipment for U.S. Navy and Coast Guard Air Sea Rescue teams.

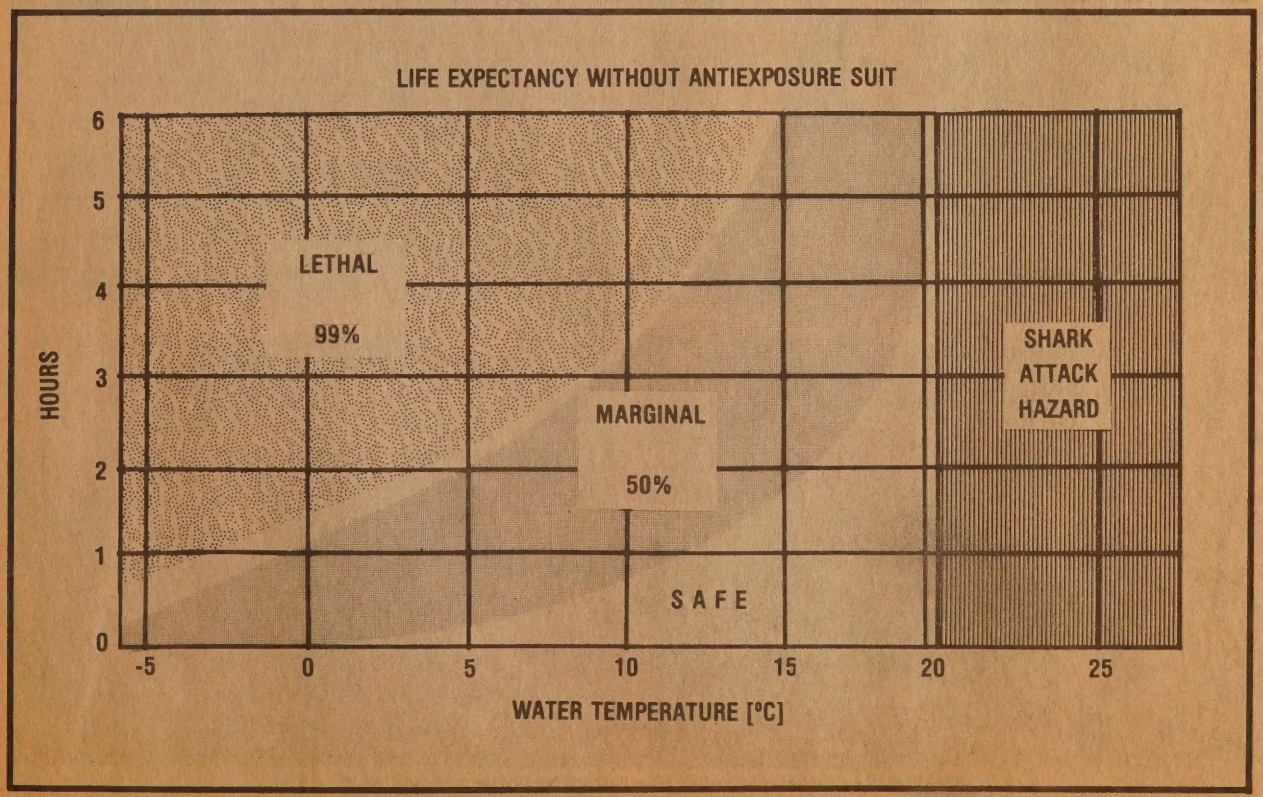
Navy and Coast Guard records indicate that more and more cold water sailors have been saved from cruel deaths by the wearing of such suits.

Exposure suits made by Imperial Manufacturing, Bayley and Fitz have been tested by men who both donned suits in the water and prior to entering the water. Suits put on in the water reached the same 80 degree comfortable temperature of the suits put on prior to entering the water within 15 minutes. All suits were tested with thermacouples wired to the inside of the suits.

What do you wear under these suits? You wear your regular clothing depending upon the season. You do not take your clothing off. Anti-exposure or survival suits are dry suits. Why? No water gets into the suit as would happen in a wet suit which operates on the basis of having a thin layer of water between the inside of the suit and your body, which introduces the deadly chill factor. The wind chill factor is eliminated in an anti-exposure suit as contrasted with a wet suit. Clothing serves as an insulation barrier as does the 3/16 inch heavy neoprene. The entire body is encased. A zipper in front of the suit makes it easy to get in and out of. A torn suit is easily repaired in the same way you would patch an inner tube. Of course, you do not make it a point to jump onto barnacles or sharp rocks. You will enjoy much freedom of movement in these suits. There is no underarm chafing or water scooping as you paddle around in cold water.

The average person can put on such a suit in 10 to 30 seconds. They are stored just like foul weather gear. They would be put on during an emergency or when you are running to and from the fishing grounds in rough seas, breaking through or entering an inlet, etc. Care of such suits is the same as caring for any product made of natural rubber. The suit is washed free from saltwater after use and is kept away from grease, oil and gasoline. Do not store in the strong rays of the sun. Slight lubrication of the zipper with silicon spray and storage in a dry cool area is all that's required for maintenance. The most common color for these suits is that of international orange for ease in being seen when in the water.

If what has been presented disturbs you, then I have been successful in making my point about how to survive in cold water. Hypothermia is indeed a real problem that everyone must consider when they mess around on the water. The problem is always present. Think about it. If the problem presents itself, are you ready for it? Think safety and remember it is a problem which modern technology has solve. Have you?



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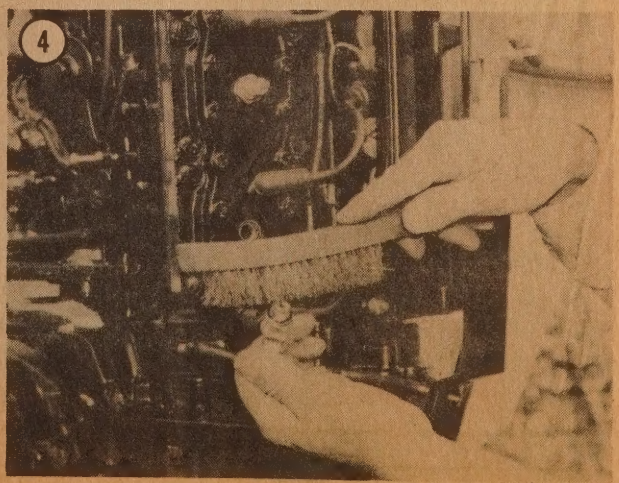
JUST AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION...

by Preston Lightsey

It's truly amazing how the Good Lord has made us all different. Even if we happen to share the same interests, we go about it in such varied ways. You've seen examples of this many times, but may not have thought about it. You may be on a party boat heading out to do some bottom fishing and on the way to the fishing spot the guy next to you opens his tackle box to start rigging his pole so he's ready when the boat drops anchor. His gear is absolutely immaculate with each thing in its place: nothing rusty, hooks sharp, sinkers arranged by weight and each jig in a separate little plastic bag. Then you look to your other side and that guy opens his box. What a mess! He probably hasn't opened it since his last trip because there's still chunks of dried clam stuck to the top tray, the loose hooks are rusted together in a huge lump and everything under the trays looks like an old robin's nest. He's yanking out stuff and swearing because he can't find any snap swivels. Yet both of these guys have something in common: they both love to fish.

Now you open your box; which category do you fit into? Think about it. Either you are a Mr. Immaculate or a slob—there's no in-between. Either you flushed all the saltwater from your gear right after the last trip or you didn't. If you didn't flush, dry and re-oil your Penn 4/0 reel after the last trip and the salt has eaten up the main gear and fused the drag washers the reel will not work. It's not that it won't work good, it won't work at all, there's just no in-between.

In the fall, when lawn mowing season is done, it's the same story. My riding mower is put up on blocks, gas drained, the battery brought into the garage, the spark plug is removed and oil is put into the cylinder. Then it's covered up with a plastic tarp. At the same time my neighbor pulls his mower alongside of his garage, turns it off and there it sits until next spring, covered with leaves, then snow. Now you know this is not an exaggeration because you know the very same type of person and common sense will tell you who has the best odds of their machine starting up next spring, virtually trouble free?

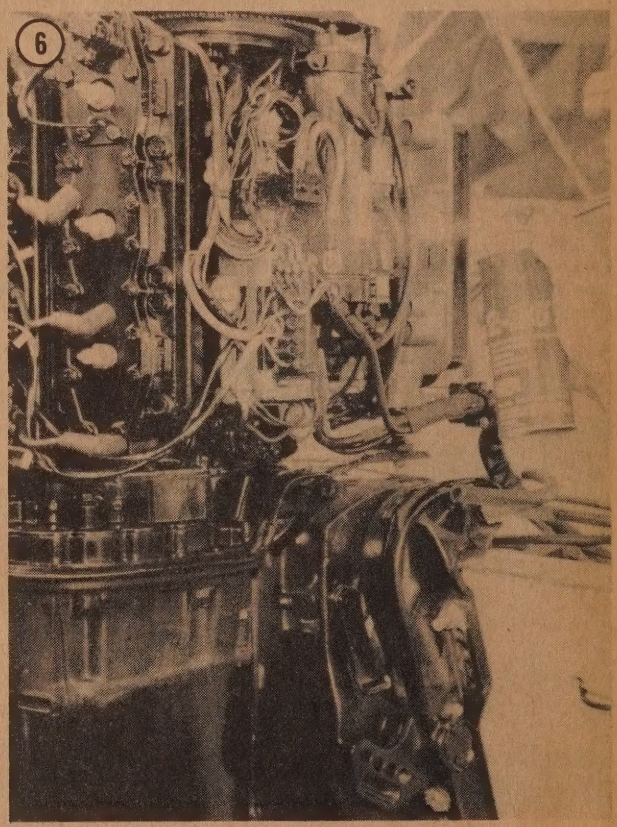


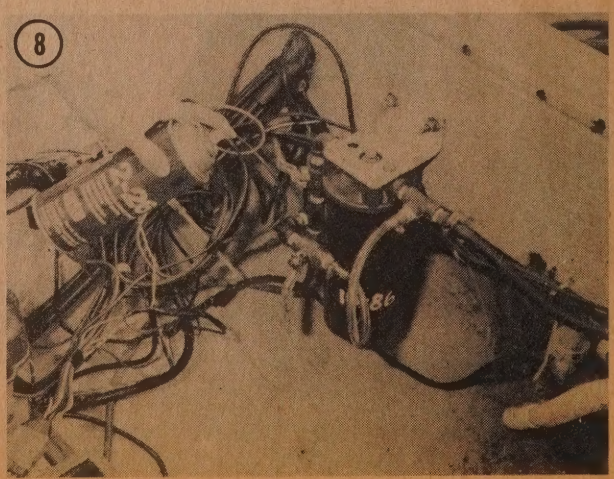
Well, it's the same old story with your boat, motor and trailer. If you store it away properly in the fall, your odds for a trouble free season next year, are really increased. You should plan on going through the steps of storage as soon as your last trip has been completed. Don't put it off until the weather gets so cold that it's miserable; but on the other hand, it's better late than never. The entire storage procedure only takes a few hours and the best way to start is by washing down the entire rig, trailer and all. Flush the engine whether it has been in salt water or not because after the engine has warmed up the fuel line should be disconnected so all of the gasoline in the carbs is used up.

Now right here is a very controversial procedure Some folks believe that just as the engine is about to stall from running out of gas, oil should be squirted into the carb intakes to "fog" out the internal engine components, thereby coating everything with an oil film. The other procedure is to let the engine run out of gas, then remove the spark plugs, squirt each cylinder with a non-synthetic motor oil, about a tablespoon full, in each plug hole. Crank the engine over with the plugs removed and that will coat the cylinder walls, piston rings and eventually seep around the rings and down to the rods and crank. Now add the same amount of oil again, but this time do not crank the engine; just re-install the cleaned or new spark plugs and let it stay like that for the winter. That is all that I've ever done and have never had a problem, but the choice is up to you, as both ways will work. If you have an inboard or I/O, the block must be drained. Draining varies so much from one engine design to another that the manufacturer's instructions should be consulted for proper procedures.

Photo One: Remove the lowest plug in the lower unit. Hold a can under this and while doing so, remove the top vent plug. Notice what comes out first. If there is any water or if the lubricating fluid is a milky color then the seals are leaking and require replacing. Make an appointment with your dealer for this immediately—not next spring.

Photo Two: If the fluid is clean, drain it out and refill immediately with a good brand name lubricant. Do





not let the lower unit stand dry all winter or the bearings will rust. Apply the fluid in the lower hole until it flows out the top vent. Most outboards take 2 or 3 tubes to refill.

Photo Three: Remove the prop. If it is bent or damaged, send it to your dealer for repair, and coat the shaft with thread guard, Never Seize or a good grease to prevent rusting.

Photo Four: Remove the spark plugs and clean or replace them. A wire brush is usually sufficient; then re-gap each plug.

Photo Five: Pump or pour non-synthetic motor oil into each cylinder as described in the text. Reinstall the spark plugs and the engine is internally ready for storage.

Photo Six: Spray every inch of the engine with WD-40 or 2-26—wires, carbs and all. This is great stuff that will lubricate, prevent rust and improve electric qualities. It helps to spray all of the boat's metal handrails, lights, controls and ignition switch.

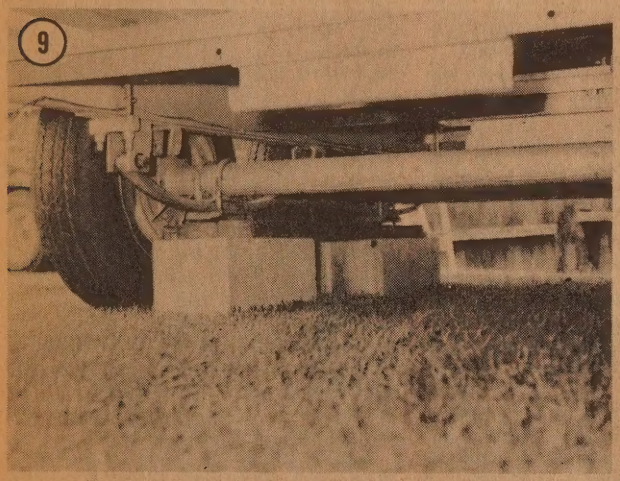
Photo Seven: Remove the batteries and spray all wiring and terminal ends with 2-26. Store the battery in your cellar or garage where it won't freeze. Always store it on wood blocks because a battery stored on concrete unexplainably deteriorates. Fill the water level with distilled water and trickle charge it a few days each month.

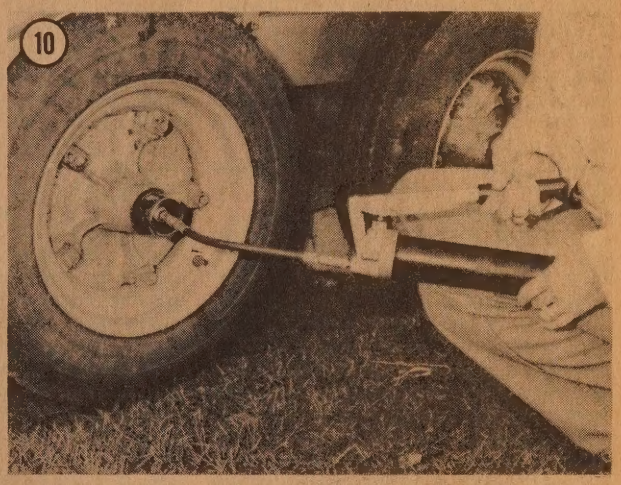
Photo Eight: Locate the fuel filter and drain out any water accumulation. Replace the filter element now; you'll never remember to in the spring. Spray everything with 2-26 or WD-40 to prevent rust and corrosion.

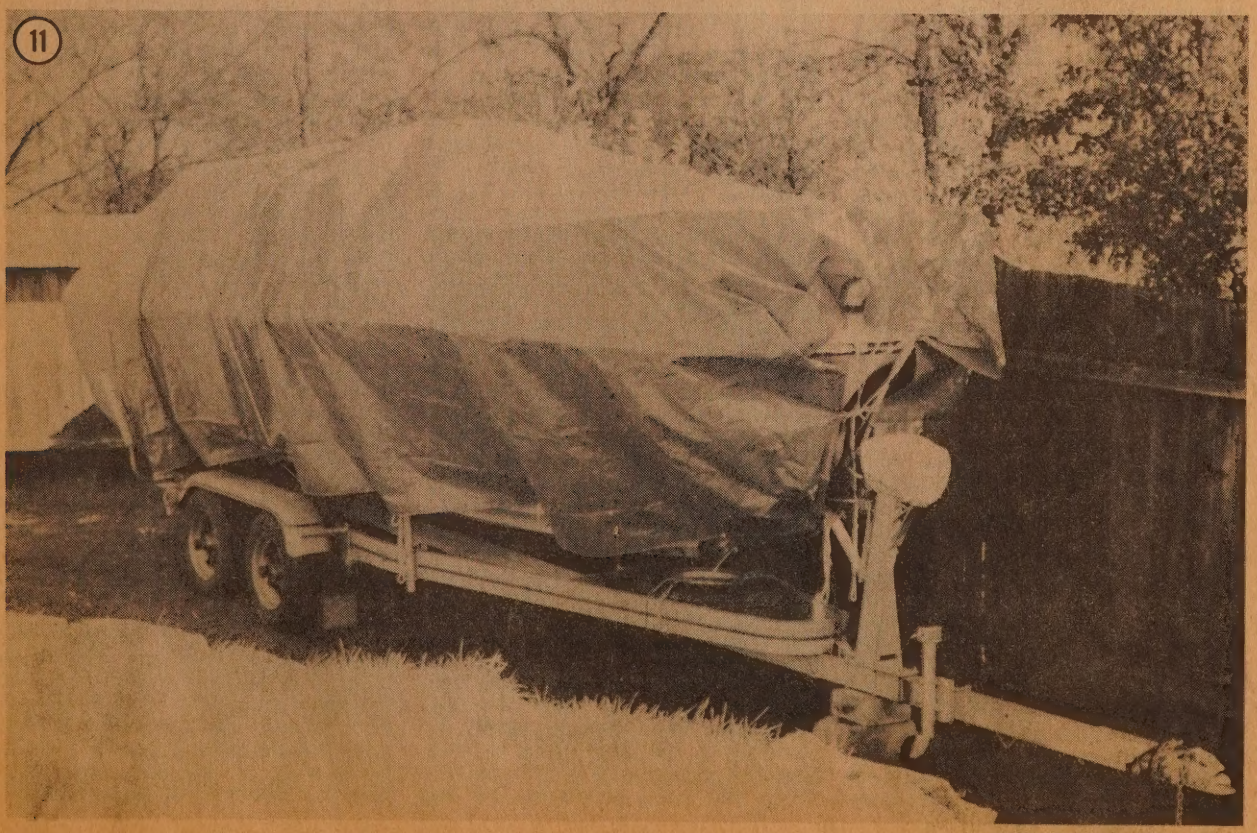
Photo Nine: Jack up the trailer so the tires clear the ground by a few inches to prevent the earth from rotting the tread and allowing easy wheel bearing maintenance.

Photo Ten: Shake the tire and see if there is any excess play indicating bearing failure. If things feel okay, then lubricate the bearings. It's easy if you have bearing protectors; if not, the wheel should be removed and the bearings packed by hand.

Photo Eleven: Jack up the front of the trailer so any water that accumulates during storage will run aft and drain. Make sure all hull drain plugs are removed and left out. Cover the boat with a good tarp, tied and braced so the wind won't tear it off or the weight of snow collapse it.







MEMOIRS OF A FIRST TIME BOATER

by Joel Skolnick

Call me Ishmael—and so my first season of the boat is about to end. An ending not completely unwelcome. For this unique ending brings with it the cessation of all the anxieties of a novice boat owner, and Lord knows I've had anxieties. To be quite frank, I've never really pictured myself as the mother hen type, but alas, here I sit, self-accused. Old salty dogs who chance upon these words may find them somewhat prosaic, but I'm hoping some not-so-salty-dogs pass this way and perhaps...well, to be forewarned is to be forewarned.

My boat was, as most first boats are, by definition, a pipe dream come true. My childhood years, spent completely in and around the Sheepshead Bay area of Brooklyn, provided both the seed and fertile soil for that dream—a dream nurtured for years as I watched, with envy, all the small boats that darted out to sea in hunt of impossible-to-reach-by-land fishing spots. Cold mornings in the surf saw me watch with a sinking sensation in my stomach, as skiffs raced to breaking schools of bass or blues that were far beyond the casting range of my carefully designed, homemade surf sticks. And the dizzying shock as I saw rods bend over the fantails of boats as the weight of striking fish socked home. What more can I say; what more need I say?

But then it came upon me, almost as those child-born dreams were neary completely extinguished by adult rationality (which included some understanding of economic necessity). A five year old insurance case, long forgotten, produced the tidy sum of $800; a friend of a friend leaving town advertising a bargain boat for sale—a dormant dream suddenly brought to life.

Twenty-three feet of solid three-quarter inch lapstraked mahogany lay somewhere in the Bronx luring me, like the sirens of old. My anticipation as I drove, full of doubts, to the far reaches of City Island grew with each mile. As if it were yesterday I can recall helping to untie the ropes holding the winter canvasses down. And as if it were yesterday, I can recall the thrill that ran through me as I saw the fantastic condition of this 13-year-old craft, as I stepped over the stern. For before my eyes was a boat that had obviously been treated and cared for with great skill. To be 13-years-old and look that new was all the information I needed. The owner explained that the engine was tired, but operative and reliable. To me there was no question of this man's honesty. In three minutes time, both smiling ear to ear, we shook hands on the bargain price of exactly $800. I was filled with joy, fear and perhaps even more important, a sense of great, good fortune.

Of course, the first and most essential task at hand was to name the new arrival. Being a super-fan of Moby Dick, I first thought of Ahab's great ship, the Pequod, but soon remembered its predicted fate. But then it came to me—of course, the sole survivor who alone lived to tell the great tale: "Ishmael!"

Voyages to the foreign Bronx soon became more commonplace. Friends all dying to see the new found treasure—and each time the cries of amazement and delight, "Wow, it's really fantastic!" and "No kidding Joe, it's really beautiful. I thought it was going to be a wreck for eight hundred dollars." And each time those words were spoken, a smile glowed inside me. A smile of inner joy and yes, pride in my discovery.

Now an inward smile is a nice thing, but sooner or later it must come out into the cold light of reality. The reality of, "What in Sam Hill do I do with it now?" Registration first. Okay, that's easily settled for fifteen bucks. What next? Insurance. Phone calls begin with no positive response. "Sorry sir, we don't insure boats over five years old. Try so and so company, and anyway, since you're going to be docking in Brooklyn the vandalism rate is so high we really can't be bothered. Now if you were going to dock in Alaska we could help you." And so it went, until a boating friend gave me another company name, the 'We Will Insure It for You if It's Sinking Company'; but jokes aside, even they wanted a $50 survey (a nautical medical examination of the boat) in addition to the regular $250 premium. This, mind you, for a policy which provided for a $50 deductible per vandalism policy. I had to figure who needs a $50 deductible **per** vandalism policy. If $60 worth of equipment were taken each vandalism, I'd wind up in the poor house by midsummer according to all reports. The thing that really concerned me was not vandalism but liability. What if I hit someone else? Finally, perhaps without perfect wisdom, I decided that since I have ten-ten vision, and have survived driving in New York City traffic for some years, it's a safe bet I won't hit anyone. If worse comes to worse, and I ram the bow of the Ile de France or some stray nuclear sub, I would be out $800.

This finally settled in my mind (about as settled as realizing you've hooked a 30 pound tarpon while trying to snag live bait on four pound test line), I turned my attention to the boat itself. Okay, the hull comes first. Sanding, scraping the bottom, surface compound, seam compound, some new tools and some old friends for helpers. My old Army duffle bag slowly filled with tools and equipment (even a secondhand heavy duty sander and a pair of goggles requisitioned from a buddy working at the airport) and the work began.

I would like to say a few words about the theory of relativity here. That is, how our view of things can easily change given a new point of view. A 23 foot boat, sitting dry docked, in a yard full of 38 and 45 foot heavy hitters can really look like a little fish in a big pond. But beware, for when you begin to sand and scrape those sides and bottom while lying on your back with a 10 inch orbital sander ripping away, your 23 foot midget begins to assume the proportions of the Queen Mary. The work went slowly. Every free minute found me racing northward. Friends were not always available when I had the free time. Anyway, it was my baby, and could I be sure that even my well-intentioned friends would deliver that same tender loving care that I would? The answer, for this first season of the boat was a definite, "No." My second season would bring the wisdom of the sages and the remembrance of all the tired, cramped muscles of the first season, changing that definite "No!" into a resounding "Who cares, as long as I have help?" But that was to come much later.

So there I was, sanding and scraping away endlessly, my lungs filled with a tasty combination of powdered mahogany from those vast side strakes and delicious copper filled bottom paint (the latter inhaled while lying on my somewhat bony back on a bed of small jagged stones).

The only good things to be said about doing the bottom of a boat is that the powder and flakes give you a kind of tan, which you need. You see, you're always in goggles and bandanas and you can have great fun scaring the heck out of unsuspecting visitors who bend down searching for you, and you rise a land-based creature from the red lagoon.

What can I say: there I was, slaving away, anxiety building over every newly discovered hair-line crack, and every chunk of bottom paint which flaked off, exposing bare wood, until the sanding was at last done: weeks, not days later—weeks because some days I was simply too hesitant to move forward on this new, unfamiliar ground. Every step required a strengthening of my will and confidence or in other words, I didn't really know what I was doing most of the time and knew that I didn't know. But somehow, by hook or by crook, some sweat and sore muscles, the hull was finally ready for painting. Careful paint and varnish selection came next. I shuffled all the little manufacturers' books the boat yard supply store gave me and picked the brand with the least number of pages. A few good brushes made, of course, from angel's hair were also purchased. I should point out here that boat yard owners are indeed a rare breed of entrepreneur. They told me I had to buy all my supplies at their store—shades of the company town! I listened with an honest smile upon my face as I designed my simple late night supply smuggling campaign. At any rate, the painting of the sides was fun, but the painting of the bottom at $24 per gallon was pure nightmare. But soon, through tears of sweat, there it was—a sight for sore eyes! The glistening white hull, the golden transom with eight coats of finely rubbed varnish and that somewhat cockeyed green water line. I was really proud...well, proud, but envious. For by now the once packed boat yard was almost completely empty save a few abandoned wrecks and me. What shame! The last boat to go into the drink! C'est la vie. It was the beginning of June with lots of summer and fall fishing left. I attached the shiny protective zinc discs to the rudder and shaft, still unclear exactly what they were for, and set the date for launching.

When it came, there were no butterflies in the fields that day. My stomach had cornered that market the previous night. The small overhead crane with its slings moved into place. The operator acted as if nothing was happening. He didn't realize that he was about to pick up MY BOAT with that contraption. The slings were set fore and aft and slowly he began to lift the boat. The first few creaks of that hull responding to the pressure made a dentist's drill sound like heavenly choirs. I was as close to cardiac arrest as possible. Surely the boat was going to split and splinter apart like a tinder box from the strain. Thank the Lord for my ignorance. It held together, swaying gently in the wind while I quickly finished off that last coat of bottom paint. Two hours hanging in space, for both me and the Ishmael, and in she went. The Ishmael launched and believe it or not—floating!

I quickly jumped down onto the decks and felt my sea legs respond with pleasure to the gentle rocking. The yard's launch came alongside and with great care towed me to the outlying dock. That boat looked so good sitting there it really knocked me out. What a thrill.

Once again, however, my boundless joy was somewhat short lived. I knew little about inboard marine engines in general, and even less about Ishmael's specifically. Prior to launching the former owner had promised to join me at the yard to help me get the show on the road. He had already attached the carburetor which had been removed while in dry dock, so I felt relatively confident of his support and aid. For additional protection, I was prepared with his old battery (freshly charged) and a brand new one in similar condition. So I sat aboard this wonderful dream and waited for my expert help.

For those of you who understand what the first few days of a newly launched 10-year-old lapstraked hull bring, I need not continue. For those yet unfamiliar with this phenomenon, suffice it to say that this fine hull design leaks upon entry into the seas. And leaks, and leaks. The boards must first swell up until the seams become tight. I had been warned that this was normal and was prepared for a reasonably small quantity of water. So I sat waiting for my engine man feeling relatively cool...for the first two hours. It was now about 1800 hours on a Friday (note the growing nautical expertise). I chanced to look beneath the floor boards where my electric bilge pump was located. Hmmm...about three inches of water—not too bad, but it was rising fairly fast. However, I've got a good bilge pump, one freshly charged battery on board and brand new one in the car trunk. I can handle this. It would be nice if I could run this pump off the engine, but I'm prepared. On went the bilge pump switch. Pumping slow but steady. Sure hope the battery doesn't die. Well, that went okay. Switch off. Pump out three inches in only ten minutes. Let's see, the experts said that the boat would take about 6 to 12 hours to tighten up and stop leaking. Hmmm...almost 1900 hours now. I'd better call my wife and let her know I'll probably have to stay late. Back on the boat. Sure wish I had brought those nice cushions for the cabin bunks. Sure would love to try and start that engine, but the former owner did say I had better wait for him before trying to do so. Man, all those hoses and valves and wires and an updraft barburetor (whatever that may be)... All right I'll wait for the expert—even better, let's call him up. No answer. Back on the boat. Anxiety level is up—so is water in the bilges...wow, over four inches in two hours...get pump going...boy, that's a lot of water...almost thirty minutes to pump out this time. Switch off bilges. Got to save this battery. Dark now and quiet on the dock. Getting chilly, too. 2200 hours. Boat yard completely empty. Ishmael filled with me and almost...holy cow...five inches of water. On with the pump, quick. Wow, I wasn't watching. Better try and call that guy to come for the engine help. Nuts, still no answer. Back on the boat, still pumping, but not so strongly. Should have called wife just then. Looks like I'm going to spend the night here. Thirty-five minutes to pump that load of water out. This old battery is doing fine but I'm not. On the phone again. "Well I'm sorry but this boat is taking water like a sponge. I'm going to have to stay." Six hours in the water now. Those boards keep leaking. Have to pump every two hours. Boy, am I tired. Can't sleep though.

0200 hours pump out okay. Dying to sleep. Walk around to keep warm. Have serious talk with Ishmael (cannot repeat conversation due to censorship laws). 0400 pump begins. Water level still rising about four inches every two hours. Boy, could I sleep. Old battery still alive...sunlight is streaming through the cabin doors. Not so cold now. Guess I fell asleep. Feels good to have slept on my boat. I roll over on the hard bunk to check the bilges. Oh my God. Water four inches over the floor boards—I'm sinking. Pure panic set in. Turn on the bilge pump quick—but wait, it is on—what the heck, what's happening? Oh, no, I must have fallen asleep during the four o'clock pumping, the thing has been on for hours. The battery is dead. I lift the engine cover—more grief. The battery is covered with water. I dash to the car for the new battery. It's installed and working in less than 10 minutes. Seems to be more water in the bow than the stern. Well, who cares. Have to keep pumping now or I'll probably sink. Knees weak; got to get this engine started. Phone the expert again...no answer (more censorship here). Call wife again and describe tragegy: "Don't know when I'll be home"—lots of adrenalin flowing now. Back to boat—all pumped out in less than 30 minutes—feel a little better. Decide to get some breakfast and maybe try engine without expert. Food does a world of good; so does sun. You know, I think yes, the tide is turning; it's after ten thirty and only one inch of water. The seams have finally tightened up. I want to cheer and do; starting the engine can wait now. I race home to Brooklyn and return with wife, kids, cushions and sleeping bags. Family dinner on boat; battery still good; cushions great. Settle to early dockside sleep with wife and kids aboard. All's well with the Ishmael—the tide has turned.

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East End REPORT

with Mrs. Lorry Mangan

Fishing reports were hard to come by this weekend, due to a combination of holiday obligations, a switch to hunting by some anglers and, of course, winds. Reports were received of great blackfish catches during the week, with a slowdown in some areas on the weekend. Plenty of bass remain, with a few blues. Offshore trips for bottom fish located cod, pollock, sea bass and huge porgies.

MONTAUK

Larry, reporting from **Captain's Cove Marina** spoke of a couple of good blackfish catches at both Cerberus Shoal and in Block Island waters on Saturday. George Steininger with his buddies Jack and Richie fished only two hours at Cerberus, but returned with 24 blackfish, some to 9 lbs., on their boat, "Against the Wind." Anglers on the "Peppi" fished Block Island waters for a very good catch of tog; however, the group reported giant bergalls. Several charter boats are still in the water, booking December cod and blackfish. Call the marina for details.

Except for the **Vivienne**, all charter boats at **Montauk Marine Basin** had called it a season. The **Marine Basin**, however, will be open all month and is a good source of holiday gifts. The "Memory Man," owned by Mike Matthews, one of the few private craft still in the water, enjoyed a good catch of blackfish with many big fish on Saturday fishing near Block Island.

Captain John DeMaio of the **Vivienne** wound up the season with a weekend of blackfish charters, returning with many impressive fish while exploring a new hotspot. Friday's group of three anglers caught 60 blackfish, top weight 12½ lbs., with many between 8 and 10 lbs. Saturday the score was 40 blackfish to 11½ lbs. Sunday's group caught 30 blackfish, many over 8 lbs., biggest 12, then switched to bass. Fourteen bass were caught and released. Blues were scarce on Sunday. Captain John wishes all his friends customers best wishes for a healthy holiday season. Call for information regarding spring cod charters.

Edelman's Lou Rosado and his friend Nick Mattskiew stopped briefly on Lou's favorite blackfish spot on Friday, keeping a dozen blacks over 5 lbs. before heading the "Sea Whimp" to her winter quarters back west.

At **Gone Fishing Marina**, Tom Jordan spoke of good blackfishing at

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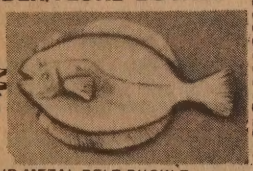

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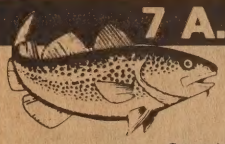
Cerberus and Fishers, however, strong new moon tides at Fishers this weekend held down catches. Richie Reynen sticks with nearby Cerberus, however, and fishing two rods alone, usually manages to catch four or five dozen blackfish per trip.

Joanne Abarno, her sons Michael, age 9 and Jeremy, age 7, with their cousins teenagers Jason and Buddy LaMay enjoyed a bass trip on the **Bluefin IV** on Friday. The youngsters kept score, reporting the release of 55 bass. Five bluefish were kept. The fish were caught on umbrella rigs trolled at the Point and along the beach. Bass ranged from 10 to 25 lbs. Ten blackfish were caught by Paul Kovacs, his son, grandson and teenage friends at Southwest Ledge on Saturday, before trying south of Block for cod. About 25 cod were kept including one of 25 lbs., although most were smaller. Sunday's charter with Dick Latinski returned with some blackfish located on the south side. The **Bluefin IV** will be hauled this week. Captain Michael Potts thanks all his customers for a fine season and wishes all a happy, healthy holiday. His season will start March 25th. Bookings are now being made for spring cod.

Captain Paul Forsberg reported on the weekend's fishing trips for the **Viking Fleet**. On Friday, with a large crowd of anglers, pool cod weighed 45 lbs. Big pollock and sea bass were in the catch. Saturday's trip included cod and sea bass. On Sunday, however, while a few cod and sea bass were caught, monster porgies caught everyone's attention, with some anglers filling 1½ buckets of porgies, some reaching 4 and 5 lbs. in weight. Captain Forsberg remarked that this has been a "weird season." Combination (cod, blacks, sea bass) trips have been scheduled for weekends until the end of the month, with extra sailings Christmas week.

We understand that the weekend's Georges Banks trip was so good, with several cod over 50 lbs., uncounted amounts between 30 and 40, including haddock, pollock and huge hake, that an unprecedented trip has been scheduled to leave the day after Christmas. More than half of the 46 anglers who made this weekend's trip have already made reservations for the Christmas trip. Space will be at a premium, so it's wise to make reser-

CAPTREE



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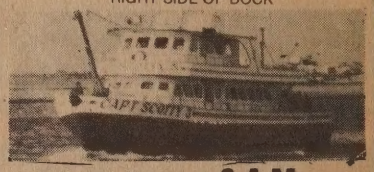

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vations as soon possible.

We received a call from John Girolamo just as we were going to press, concerning the results of the weekend's Georges Banks trip on the **Viking Starship.** John stated that Saturday's weather was perfect, but gale winds were encountered on Sunday. During Saturday's perfect conditions, over 750 cod were caught, many over 40 lbs. Captain Bud Miller, who runs the Captree "Sea Lion," took the pool with a 57 lb. cod, the largest of his 22 fish. Lou Pow, who is usually on the "Speedy," took second place with a 56 lb. cow caught in the height of the gale on Sunday morning. An extraordinary flounder was caught by Steve Rad. The fish, which weighed 6¼ lbs., took clam on a high hook that had a red teaser. Some anglers on board and their catches included: Roger Evans with a dozen cod plus a 49 lb. hake; Joe Cafferty, 17 cod; Hank Lackner 27 cod; Phil Albo, a 49 lb. hake with his cod. Girolamo related that he had 21 cod, three each pollock and haddock. About 30 pollock from 15 to 27 lbs. were caught, 50 haddock and many large hake. Bait was preferred over jigs. Captain Forsberg took the inland route home (Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket) because of the storm. Many anglers, including John, have already reserved space for the December 26th trip.

L.I. Fishing with Lorry Mangan will feature pointers on rigging up for cod, emphasis on wreck fishing, with guests Harvy Minkoff and Dennis O'Donnell. Tune in Friday at 7:30PM or Saturday 9:30AM, WLIG-TV, Channel 55. For information on this fishing program, call Lorry at (516) 928-1347.

Captain Bill Ricca reported a slow pick of blackfish at Fishers Island, with most of the two dozen fish caught on the **Alyssa Ann** biting on the morning's slack tide. The new moon caused heavy tides during which 20 oz. of lead couldn't hold. Captain Ricca wishes all his customers a happy holiday season, and is looking forward to a banner 1987 season, beginning April 1st, when he will sail for cod.

SOUTH FORK

Outstanding catches of very large flounder were reported during the week, from anglers trying Shinnecock's Basket area, but it slowed on the weekend. The area at Heady Creek is worth a shot, as is the Shinnecock Canal during lock closings. **Speck's Bait and Tackle** will be open weekdays at 7AM, on weekends 6AM and will have clams and worms (if the demand is there). Check ahead to see if Thom has green crabs, since they are in short supply this time of year.

Because of beautiful weather, 14 of

us persuaded Captain Artie Lach to make a mid-week trip on the **Wilhelric II** to Fishers Island last Tuesday. Although the blackfish were picky and had to be teased to bite, we had a good catch, with several fish over 9 lbs. vying for the pool. Anglers who counted a dozen or more blackfish in their catch included: Peggy and Tom Donnelly, Thom Speckenbach, Cowboy, Scotty Rundell, Sweed Nelson, Jackie Gleason, Gene Pfalzer, Bill Tully, Lorry Mangan and Andy Peda, who also won the pool. Large crowds, wnds and new moon tides held down the catch on the weekend. Captain Lach is scheduled to sail this Saturday and Sunday and feels that since we are off the moon, reasonable tides and incoming water will allow for greater exploration of hot areas.

South Shore REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

Flounder fishing remains generally lackluster in both bays with the most dependable fishing occurring well west in the State Channel. Cod continue to be picked on the offshore wrecks but they have been receiving heavy pressure and most yield but several fish per drop. Blues have been out of the picture since the middle of last week. On a brighter note, blackfishing has really taken hold in the ocean with the best fishing of the year reported on the Fire Island Ocean Reef.

MORICHES BAY & INLET

Gary Grunseich of **Silly Lily Fishing Station** in **East Moriches** said that very few anglers have been out on the bay of late. Those that have tried have found flounder fishing generally slow. Some small fish being taken near the entrance to the Quogue Canal but those fish being taken in the open bay have all been quality flatties in the 1-2 pound class. On Sunday, one boat returned with 20 big flatties from the Buoy 27 area.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

Speaking from his **J&J Tackle Shop** in **Patchogue**, Paul Graniello said that a couple of flounder are being taken on worms at the Blue Point and Patchogue Docks as well as from the sand spit at the mouth of the Patchogue River. Boatmen reported some flatties at buoys 27 and 29, east of the Smith Point Bridge. Freshwater fans have been reporting a lot of small trout in local tidal creeks. They are being taken on small jigs, spinners and also on killies and nightcrawlers.

Al Colban at **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale** said that there are some flounder being taken near Buoy 2—East Islip and a few being reported from the Sore Thumb Pocket as well. Best news of the week concerned some very good blackfish action on the Fire Island Reef and ocean wrecks. Cod continue to be picked on the offshore wrecks. The Connetquot River has been producing some white perch on nightcrawlers and Mepps spinner combos. Also a few tommy cod and flounder being taken in the tidal reaches. Trout fishermen have taken some sea runs in the 2-4 pound range at Bubbles and Rattles.

Over at **Captree Bait and Tackle**, Noel Kappauf said that blackfishing appears over in the bay but improved dramatically on the Fire Island Reef. He also noted that there has been some improvement in the flounder fishing as evidenced by some decent catches being made aboard the **Capt. Rod**. He has been working in the State Channel. For shore anglers, just a few flounder being taken on the piers with no exceptional catches being reported. Noel reminded that he will be open weekends only, weather permitting, from this point on and he wishes to thank all of his customers for a fine season and a special thanks to all of those who participated in the Fisherman Derbys at Captree this season. He also asked that we extend Holiday Greetings to all of his customers.

Capt. Speedy Hubert of the **Captree** open boat **Speedy VIII** said that they continue to pick away at the cod on offshore wrecks. Each stop has been producing several cod with fish averaging 12 to 18 pounds but a good sprinkling of 20 and 30 pound class fish mixed in. Friday's trip saw 25 cod come over the rail. Saturday was a tough day with only 10 cod taken while Sunday jumped back up to 26 cod. Pool fish on Sunday was a 37 pounder. Speedy added that Capt. Nick Manzari of the **Speedy VII** also had decent catches of cod over the weekend.

Capt. Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen II** reported a good weekend on blackfish with Friday being the best of the long Holiday weekend. Four hundred tog were taken on Friday's trip to the Fire Island Reef. Hihooks have been scoring in the 20s with quite a few 4-6 pound tog among the catches. Pool fish each day has been in the 7-8 pound class. Both green crabs and clams have been working on the fish. Gordon noted that with the dropping water temperatures he expects to see more cod mixing in within the next week or so.

Capt. Carl Passaro of the open boat **Miss Captree** said that despite the late date, the fall blackfish run has begun in earnest on the Fire Island Ocean Reef. Some fares managed 15 to 20 blacks to 6 pounds. On Saturday's trip, Mike Malone of New Hyde Park had 15 blacks including an 11.1 pound pool winner. Carl added that a lot of the blacks are being taken on clam bait. The Miss Captree will be in the shipyard this week but Carl is hopeful that he will be ready to sail by Saturday. You can call ahead to be sure.

From **Augie's Tackle Shop** in **Babylon**, Tom Healy said that there were still blues to be jigged and trolled through mid-week but had heard nothing since then. On Tuesday, the Cindy Ann trolled and jigged 10 blues to 12 pounds and a 10 pound bass in 50 feet of water south of the Robert Moses water tower. A couple of private boats attempted to find some cod on open bottom but did nothing. The Narda II did report catching dogfish on open bottom in 100 feet of water. This is usually a harbinger of things to come. Flounder fishing has been picky with the best scores being made in the State Channel west of Gilgo. During the week, the Karen E managed a half dozen flatties while Pride's Pup accounted for 18 on one trip. Tom added that Augie's does have gift certificates available for the upcoming Holidays and the crew at the shop can help out with plenty of good gift ideas.

From **Charlie's Bait and Tackle** in **Lindenhurst**, Jimmy Schaefer reported that he joined Tom Favilla on Saturday for a shot at the local flounder. They anchored in 30 to 35 feet of water in the State Channel near Gilgo and in a short time put away 20 flatties, including one that weighed in at 2¾ pounds. The pair used bloodworms and clam and corn chum. Jimmy also knew that Squaw Island has been providing a decent pick of flatties as has the East-West Channel off of Lindenhurst. The latter spot has been productive on the flood tide only. A few cod being reported from the offshore wrecks and some good blackfishing on the weekend reported from the Fire Island Ocean Reef. Jimmy reminded that he is still stocking green crabs as well as bloodworms. A few white perch showed in local canals with casters reporting taking fish behind TSS and at Bergen Point. Charlie's will be open through the Holiday season and does have gift certificates for the angler on your list.

The week's best flounder score was reported by Chester Shew at **Z Crab Tackle** in **Copiague**. He told us that on Saturday, Ralph Lennon and his son Sean worked in the vicinity of Squaw Island with bloodworms and clam chum and managed to put away 74 flatties. This was far and away the best catch brought to his attention as most boatmen reported slow to fair action with the flatties at Squaw Island and also at Bergen Point. Fred Hagermeyer and Joe Ueira aboard the 'Deri-Ann' accounted for 4 cod while working an offshore wreck. One of the fish however tipped the scale at an impressive 40 pounds. Joe Braun also checked in with a few cod taken on an

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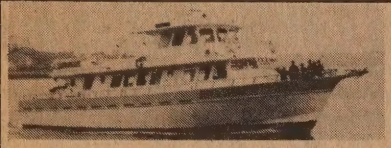

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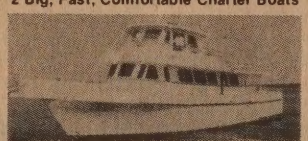

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offshore wreck on Saturday.

Speaking from **Bob's Bait and Tackle** in **Amity Harbor**, Bob Vitale reported that things are really winding down in his area. Some boatmen continue to pick away at the flounder with catches of a dozen or so flatties about the norm. Most have been working Squaw Island or the Amity Cut. Bob did know that the Lady Marion returned on Saturday from an offshore wreck with 7 cod to 25 pounds.

West End REPORT

with Stu Miller

Would you believe the bluefish are still around? Also flounder made a pretty good showing during the latter part of the week for a change, with mixed catches to 2½ lbs. The cooler waters have also goosed the blackfish into heavy chomping this week. This has been mainly on offshore pieces and ocean rock piles but local bridge abutment action has also seen some fish caught.

Codfishing has been fair, with many fish being caught in the 30s.

WEST END BAYS/ JONES INLET

We learned from Mike at **Causeway Tackle** in Wantagh that floundering was very good on the weekend for those chumming heavily on incoming water in the Merrick area in particular using bloodworms. Best activity was in 8 to 12 feet of water with catches of up to 75 fish per boat. Sizes have been mixed to 2 lbs. 10 oz. Five to eight pound blues which were feeding on sand eels were caught Friday and Saturday morning daylight hours southwest of the J2 buoy on trolled white tubed umbrellas to the tune of 10 to 25 a man. Blackfishing at 17 Fathoms has also been very good this week with fish running 3 to 8 lbs. on green crabs fished on both tides. Catches of blackfish have been up to 50 to 60 per person. A few scattered codfish reports from those working offshore wrecks to the southeast from private boats. Believe it or not, there have also been some fish taken on open bottom as well.

Out of Freeport, Captain Richie Kessinger's **Starstream II** has been beating on the cod population on wrecks and rocky bottom. Eleven cod were taken Saturday and 13 on Sunday, with fish up to 30 lbs. Fares also had sea bass and blackfish mixed in, filling out bags.

Skipper Mike Dannon of the **Capt. Lou Fleet** announces that his all day boat has finished up for the season with a 2½ lber. being the largest flattie caught for the week. The **CL III** will continue its two half-day trips daily until further notice. Fares had a good week on the flounder. Fishing both trips Monday, Young Kim had 42 and fishing both trips Wednesday regular Tom had 35. Thursday's AM trip saw several people catching in the twenties.

Out of nearby Point Lookout, Captain Al Lindroth of the **Capt. Al** said that customers picked cod on

every drop this week, but catches were off some from the previous week due to conditions. On Saturday, John Vallincus of Carle Place hoisted a 25 lb. cod and on Sunday, a 25 lber. was the reward for angler Ted Preston. All action has been on wrecks, rocks and reefs. Tuesday and Wednesday fares had a good number of 30 and 35 lb. fish. Wednesday afternoon saw a big blow come in and monstrous sea conditions. Al said the codfishing should be hot again by Thursday of this week. Sea bass, blacks and ling have been filling in the quiet moments, affording good action. The draggers have been getting tows of cod, so party boat action this winter should enjoy good action as well.

Tom at **Scotty's Fishing Station** was happy to report that Friday and Saturday and to some degree Sunday, there was great flounder fishing in his area. He had all his boats out during this fine weather and the flatfish obliged. A Brooklyn group had 65 flounder averaging 3/4 lbs. Worm and heavy chumming did it in Swift Creek and Middle Bay, just west of the Point Lookout bridge. Lots of 15 lb. class blues at Cholera and along the beaches caught by chunkers, jiggers and trollers. Some blackfish action on green crab at the Big M.

Captain Ron of the **Miss Point Lookout** says they had a couple of nice days this week fishwise. Sunday's AM trip saw regular Mike with 14 flounder. Ben Heftner had a 2 lb. pool winner. The boat's regular schedule trips have concluded and will resume March 7, 1987. The boat will be running a special blackfish trip Friday, December 5th, sailing at 7AM.

To the west in Sheepshead Bay word from the **Zephyr** is that the flounder action turned very good Saturday and Sunday, but since action has not been really consistent this fall, the boat is switching to blackfishing which has been very good this week and has been showing a good deal of consistency.

We hear from **Mike's Tackle** across from the fleet of lots of big bluefish at 17 Fathoms on bait and jigs. Blackfishing good in the same area in the deeper water on green crab. On Friday, a couple of the crew from the shop honed their Virginia hooks and went blackfishing. Mad Mario had 38 blacks and Sporty had 28 up to 9 lbs. 3 ounces.

North Shore REPORT

with Marty Garrell

Three of the four days of the Thanksgiving weekend provided anglers with superb late season

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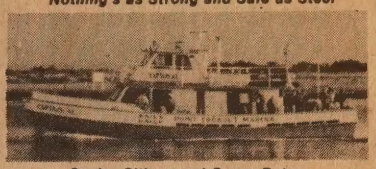

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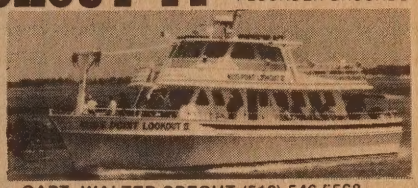

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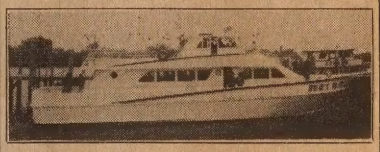

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weather. Blackfish and striped bass were on their way out with flounder action beginning to pick up for those who could obtain bait.

WESTERN SOUND

John DiCuffa at **Jack's Bait** on City Island closed up the shop on Sunday. It was generally conceded that inshore blackfish were finished for the season, but that flounder were available off local docks. Phil Nasi at **Glen Cove Sport** like the harbor, local creeks and Dosoris Pond for flounder. Oyster Bay and Bayville Creek were mentioned as good spots by Everett Johnson.

Pete Anderson of the **Klondike VIII** called the season's finale "real slow" and sailed for Florida on Sunday night. Carl Giangrande of the **Reliable** finished the season with a party and a raffle. James Thompson of Queens took the first place and won a rod and reel while Ken Atkinson had the second prize. All fares looked forward to the spring season on or about April 1st.

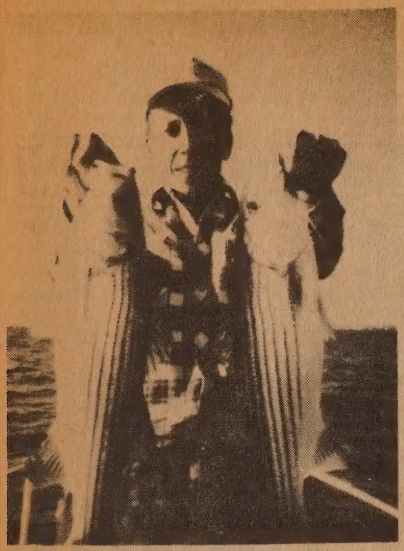
Domk Cerbone of the **Apache** said that the last days of his season were "no bonanza" but that the fish were exceptionally large in 90 foot depths off Norwalk. Bill Maidhof of the Bronx had a 12 lb. pool winner and there were a lot of 8 to 10 lbers. for sharpies like Roy Tedesco. Even the less experienced anglers in the weekend crowds had their share of small fish. Cerbone will begin sailing around St. Pat's day next year.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

This area seems to have the best bait supplies of the whole North Shore for the week's ahead. George Valentine at **Four Winds** has sand and bloodworms as well as green crabs; **Huntington Prop** has worms plus frozen clam and clam chum; **Greenlawn Sport** has crabs and worms with flats available for those who call ahead. **Bowman's** has run out of crabs but expects to have a good supply of sandworms, while **Ralph's** has green crabs and frozen clam. Finally, the **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** has frozen clams and worms, but no crabs.

Tautog fishing had slowed off buoy 28C with 6 fish catches the norm. Sizes were large and some 10 lb. fish have been weighed recently. Moving water was producing good numbers of flounder in the 1/2 to 3/4 lb. range inside Lloyds Neck. There were also a few flatties off Crescent Beach and in Huntington Harbor as well as around Centerport.

Tom Bowman was the only source who mentioned the 40 foot ledge off Eaton's for late tautog, while Ralph Davenport assured us that there were a lot of tautog on the Middle Grounds as recently as last Tuesday. Tom



Robert Bile displays a pair of stripers prior to being released. They were two of many taken during a November blitz at Eatons Neck.

Brady spoke of larger flounder but no numbers in Mount Sinai harbor.

John Alberda of **Sound Charters TJ** found bass at buoy 11B through Saturday morning before the schools disappeared. The fishing was in 45 to 50 feet of water with 2 oz. diamond jigs. Bob Herr and friends managed to catch and release some 65 linesiders between 3 and 12 lbs. Alberda tallied over 1200 bass on his catch and release excursions, and he thanks all his customers. He'll be booking in March for April flounder, and you'll see him at the area shows.

Roy Cash of the **Port Jeff Ace** will continue to sail daily through at least December 7th. His weekend fishing ranged from "decent" with some 300 fish for a full crowd on Friday to a "struggle" on Sunday. The problem is that the best fishing is around wrecks in up to 125 feet of water and it's hard to rest the areas when you are sailing daily with good crowds. Al Laue won Monday and Friday pools with fish around 10 lbs. Per fare catches have averaged around 3 to 4 fish with high hooks around 8 and occasional skunkings.

Fishing Sunken Meadow State Park on Friday for white perch, Ed Spelyng of Smithtown and Fred Messemer of Huntington Station caught a total of 60 white perch from 1/4 to one pound. All small perch were released, according to Al Flexer. The fish were caught on small **Al Fleather's Jigs.**

NORTH FORK

There were plenty of reminders last week that the season was drawing to a close on the North Fork. Ed Kopack at **Warren's Tackle Center** was reminding customers to bring gear in for repairs early and Bill Czech at **Jamesport Bait** confirmed our fears that the

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local beaches were generally big zeroes, even though Plum Gut had blues and bass until just before Thanksgiving.

Sound temperatures stood at 53 off Mattituck, but plunged into the mid-40s around Fisher's Island, which could explain the perfectly awful tautog fishing for most of the weekend for most of the local party boats. Despite crowds packed to the rails, thanks to the fine weather, it was hard to make even 100 fish, according to Larry Ciccotto of the **Prime Time III**. Ciccotto did have one shot off Fisher's in 50 feet of water Saturday morning and then a brief flurry on Sunday in 40 to 60 feet off the Plum Island reef. Friday was a disaster for both the Prime Time and the **Peconic Star** with only 20 to 30 fish for crowds of 40 to 50. With surging tides and packed rails it was tough to fish more than 70 feet of water, but both boats did so to no avail. George Porter's **Brand X** and Richie Jensen's **Nancy Ann** were reported to have worked some deepwater wrecks as well.

Brennan informed us that he will be around the docks next weekend with the Peconic Star. If the weather holds, if bait is available, and if a few sports show up, he'll give it one more try. Best call 289-6899 for information late in the week. The remainder of the North Fork fleet has apparently pulled out for the season.

Surf REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

Finally, most surfmen have resigned themselves to the fact that the blues have passed us by this November. It took a lot of convincing after several consecutive years of excellent November runs. The last bluefish report to come our way occurred last Wednesday. Still a fair number of bass sliding along the beaches but most have been schoolies, and small schoolies at that. The Fire Island National Seashore seemed to have the best of the fishing through the weekend with quite a few casters still taking advantage of the stripers.

Out in **Montauk**, Johnny Kronuch filed his last report of the season. He said that the weekend revealed just a handful of small bass taken near Ditch Plains on Friday and Saturday.

(Continued on page 46.)

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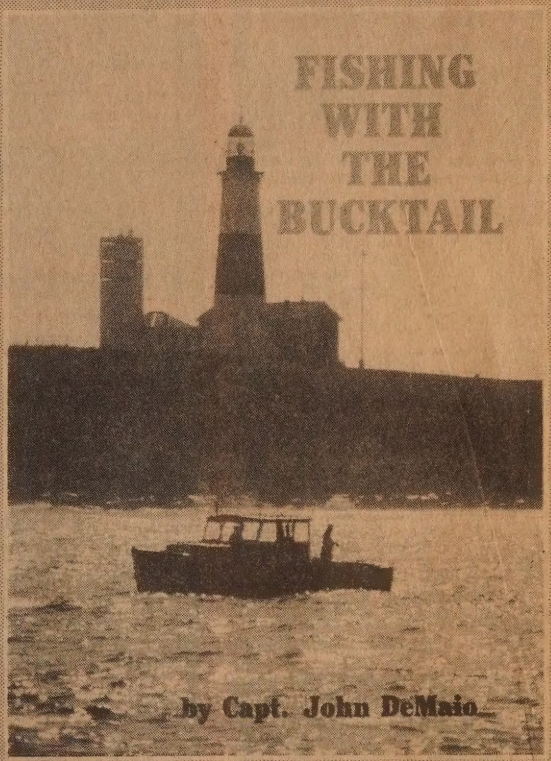

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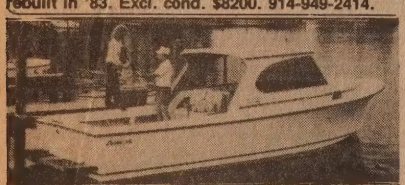

SHAMROCK KEEL DRIVE I/Bs 17', 20' & 26'. Rampage Sportfisherman 24'-28'-31' I/B. SOUTH SHORE BOATS, 516-288-2400.

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1984 GAMBLER 17' center console, 60 hp. $5700/Offer. Will trade larger. Leave message: 516-546-0373.

LUHRS 340 SF T/454 Crusaders. Tower, electronics. Canyon rigged w/all options. Excl. cond. 516-669-9313.

JC 31' w/375 V6 71 T.I. 3-station steering. Full electronics. Insulated fish hold, 250 gal. fuel tnk. Fight chair. Excl. canyon boat. Serious inquiries only. 203-838-0503.

EVINRUDE OUTBOARDS: We will meet or beat anyone's prices on '86 models right down to cost. Call us now. OMC props 20% off; Evinrude oil $27.99 case; 85 amp. marine battery $39.95. Teleflex cables 30% off. Parts, accessories. SEALAND, 516-842-1242.

LUHRS 340—offers more standard features than any other Sportfisherman in her class, incl. the welded aluminum tower, compl. w/console. In stock along w/290 & 342. Also dealers for Sportcraft, Chris Craft, OMC Sea Drive; OMC Stern Drive; Johnson; Mercruiser. SPELLMAN'S MARINE, 1708 North Hwy, Southampton, NY 11968; 516-283-7907.

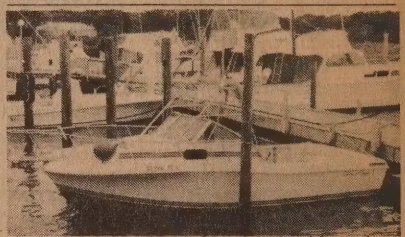
23' SEA RAY Sportfisherman. Rebuilt engine; rebuilt outdrive, 2-yrs-old. Full canvas top, 2 yrs. old. Comp. Complete Coast Guard equip. Completely rewired, new instruments, lights. $5500. Mike Ambrosina, 516-586-2029.

1973 GLASSMASTER 19'. Brand new 1986 Merc. 90 hp. TeeNee trailer. $5200 takes all. Some extras. Ready to go. John, 10-7: 201-843-1870.

1983 CRUISERS Sea Devil 22' Walkaround cuddy, 188 Merc. I/O, 110 gal. Canvas. Clean & extras. $12,500. 516-957-2612.

25' C-HAWK w/cuddy, SS rail, 96 gal. fuel tank, 1986 150 hp Suzuki, SS prop. Dual batt. & W/S wipers, bilge pump, 4 rod holders. FOB $18,100. Financing avail. 17'-25' center console also avail. JENSEN MARINE, Copiague, NY. 516-226-9739.

MUCHO MACHO MAKOS in Stock. See the experts. WHITE WATER MARINE, Sayville, 516-589-2502.



1986 CHRIS CRAFT 21' Scorpion, 230 Mercruiser, stainless electronics tower. Too much to list. Mint. EZ Loader. Ask: $23,000. Days: 914-681-0266. Eves: 914-969-5643/423-4805.

MANATEE 207 VC 21' Cuddy. Full canvas, VHF, compass, Porta-Potti, 64 qt. cooler. Much more. Powered by Mercury 115 hp EL/PT. Also 2900 lb. Shoreline trailer w/power winch. All purchased new 5-86. Used only 19 hrs. Must sell. $13,500. 516-585-1227.

1981 MAKO center console, 235 T25 Evinrudes, outriggers plus downrigger. Loran, VHF, CB washdown, bilge pumps, white line, temp gauge. Arcatur live fish well, thru-hull transducer + more. $19,500 Firm. Eves: 516-728-8202.

SHAMROCK 20' 1985 Conwalk, 200 hp FWC I/B, trim tabs. Bimini top, console cover, Halon system. Trailer; etc. On display at PORT OF EGYPT, Southold, 516-765-2445.

EVINRUDE

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2-$278; 4-$470; 6-$618; 8-$730; 9.9-$958; 15-$1100; 25-$1250; 30-$1380; 40-$1700; 50-$2100; 60-$2388; 70-$2500; 90-$2600; 115-$3000; 140-$3900; 150-$4100; 175-$4300; 235-$4500. ELECTRA MARINA INC., 610 Merrick Rd., Lynbrook, NY 11563. Scott & McCulloch parts. FOB/H. WI. 516-599-3003. We ship anywhere. MERCURY OUTBOARDS. New 1985. Phone quotes. Full service shop.

16' WINNER Tri-Hull, 84 Evinrude 50 hp PT&T, SST Prop. Full canvas & side curtains, S-Tex 357 graph recorder. $2500. 718-353-8235. PM: 516-488-8282.

HYDRASPORT 25WA 1985 Kevlar twin 150 Johnsons, King 1350 VHF, outriggers. Elec. pkg avail. Beautiful & fast. $27,000. Also have Calkins tandem trailer. 203-434-8629.

GRADY WHITE 1985 22' Walkaround cuddy, 235 VRO Evinrude. Warranty till 1988 on engine. Low hrs. Loran C, VHF, chart recorder. Many extras. 1987 model is the exact same boat. Perfect cond. Will Demo. 516-735-4609.

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AL GROVER'S MAKO BOATS • (516) 379-7100 MAJESTIC MARINE • (516) 546-BOAT

USED CANOE WANTED: Eves: 212-321-9019. Wknds: 516-727-8669.

1982 SEA OX 23', 1983 200 hp Johgnson + EZ Loader galv. trailer. Sleeps 2. Full canvas, downrigger, depth recorder, VHF. Excl. cond. Last year for sales tax write-off. $18,000. AM: 516-391-3744. PM: 516-363-2984.

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21' STEIGER CRAFT Cuddy, 115 hp Mercury P/Trim, 45 gal. tank, 2 pedestal chairs standard. Freight & prep. incl. MARINELAND: Mattituck, 516-298-4020. Long Beach, 516-889-5000. East Moriches, 516-878-4777.

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1987 Grady WHite 204C Overnighter 20' 4" Walkaround w/used 200 hp Mariner-$18,500

1986 Grady White 24' Hardtop Walkaround cuddy, dual tank, pulpit, outriggers, 275 hp V8 Johnson. Total electronics. Must sell-$39,000.

1986 New Grady White Fisherman 20' 4" center console w/used 200 hp Mariner-$17,500

1986 Grady White 24' Soft top Walkaround cuddy, twin Johnson 150 hp. Rocket Ship/. Demo; inquire.

1981 Grady White 24' Offshore, 1984 235 hp. New powerhead still under warranty to '87. Equip., walkaround cuddy-$21,000

1977 Grady White 205 Gulfstream 20' 4" walkaround cuddy, 170 Merc I/O. Brand new drive. Clean! Inquire.

USED PRIVATEER BOATS

1984 18' Closed bow, 1985 70 hp Johnson. New custom acrylic top, bowrail, custom side rails-$7995

New 18' Privateer Bay Prowler BMW I/O FWC. Navy top, prototype new $9900. Add $1100 for new TeeNee trailer

1979 20' Privateer center console, 200 hp Evinrude 1976-$8135

1983 Privateer 21' 6" center console Volvo I/O. Demo boat-$11,500

OTHER USED BOATS

1977 Eastward Ho Sailboat 24'. Live-aboard conveniences, Volvo diesel-$24,500

1983 Glassport 17' Bowrider. Excl. ski boat. Loaded w/140 hp Johnson 1984-$10,995

1986 Bayliner 17' Bass Boat, 85 hp US Force O/B & elec. trolling motor. Loaded boat w/trailer-$6995

1982 Sportcraft 17' center console, 1983 70 hp. Low hrs.-$6400

1981 Lugar Southwind Sailboat w/3 sails. Sleeps 4. 21', 9.9 Evinrude troll & trailer-$4500

1983 Dell Quay Dory 13'. Unsinkable Tri, 1983 Johnson 35 hp. Low hrs. Custom canvas-$3500

1963 FleetCraft 17' Fiberglass, 1984 60 hp Johnson-$2800

1965 Chris Craft 15' Bowrider, 1974 40 hp Johnson-$1650

1975 Cruisers Inc., 19' cuddy, 1975 Johnson 135 hp. Newly rebuilt powerhead. New top. Compass; mint-$6450

1984 Proline 21' OMC V6 I/O walkaround cuddy-$12,900.

Many used V4 & V6 engines. Many smaller used engines. Full line of Cox trailers in stock! Super buys, so come celebrate our 50th Anniversary & save!

At the foot of the Atlantic Beach Bridge on the mainland side.

EDDIE'S MARINE SERVICE CORP., 210 Bch. 2nd St., Lawrence, NY 11691; 718-327-3168.

23' SEA CRAFT 1973 center console, 1984 Evinrude 235 hp. Warranty. Ask: $12,900 or best offer. 516-536-8875.

1979 GRADY WHITE Sprint 17' 70 hp Evinrude. Trailer & full canvas. $3750. 718-225-4043.

COLUMBIA II Fiberglass boat 71 30', twin Palmer Int'l 225, electronics, fight chair, outriggers, S/F. Excl. cond. $14,500 Neg. After 6PM: 516-281-0235

USED PARTS—Large inventory, Evinrude, Johnson, Mercury, Stern Drive. Lower units, gears, blocks, starters, power packs, props. KELLY'S OUTBOARD WORLD, 516-567-3417.

SUZUKI Super Sale. 150 & 200 hp V6s w/SS Props. First w/oil injection. 2 to 200 hps. Also in stock. JENSEN MARINE, 516-226-9739.

1979 AQUASPORT 246 Family Fisherman, 235 Johnson, Tournament outriggers. Fishing chair, 2 insulated fish box seats, custom encl. 1986, SW washdown, stereo, Loran, graph recorder, Video recorder. Surface temp. gauge, VHF, CB, speed indicator. Porta-Potti. Much more. Nothing else will fit! Plus 1983 Shoreline galv. EZ Roller trailer, 10,000 cap. Power winch, bearing buddies. Both absolutely mint. Must see. $17,500. 516-221-0171.

BERTRAM 25'. New '85 T275 hp Chryslers. Still under warranty. Cruise 25 kts, dual hydraulic stations. Flybridge, teak platform. Full inst. Loaded w/too many extras to list. $36,500 Neg. 212-486-9570.

1977 26' GROVER BUILT, Fiberglass, 120 hp Lehman diesel. Electronics, outriggers. Much more. $16,000. 516-226-1154/783-5610.

SEA CRAFT 20CC 1981 150 Evinrude. Professionally maintained. RayNav 53 VHF, Ross SL300B recorder, Si-Tex 787 Loran. Outriggers, Downrigger, canvas. Ask: $6500. Days: 516-283-2047. After 6:30: 516-283-2839.

1987 CHRIS CRAFT 292 Sunbridge Sedan. Huge cockpit! Hit of the boat shows. Twin Crusader V8s, 11' beam. Fully electric galley. Sleeps 6 w/bridge seating for 5. Fall Price-$59,900. SEAFORD MARINE, 516-785-3280.

48' 1975 Pacemaker Sportfish. Needs work

33' 1986 Egg Harbor, brand new, Rupp riggers

38' 1976 Bertram, M903 1/2 tower fishing machine

SEA JAC, 516-728-4220/6627.

1972 IMP 23' 225 hp OMC, 72 gal. gas, power winch, VHF, X-15DF, Furuno loran. Outriggers, dual batt., legal head. Full canvas, fish box, baitwells, 2 fishing chairs. Full CG equip. Economical & fast. In water. Ready to fish. $8500. Days: 378-9251. Eves: 546-8677.

SPORTFISH Cruiser 30' by Hunter Marine. Full keel design, 6' 4" cabin w/galley & head. Huge cockpit. Introductory special $39,100 w/270 hp. FOB. SOUTH SHORE BOATS, 516-288-2400.

1972 MERCURY 115, new lower unit. Still guaranteed. Rebuilt top end w/controls. Runs excl. Less than 20 hrs. First $900 takes it. New boat arrived. Eves: 516-561-2057.

21' MAKO CC 1979, 200 hp Evinrude 1979. Low hrs. Outriggers, electronics. Trailer. $12,500. Mint. 516-324-5128.

EVINRUDE

WE'LL BEAT ANY DEALER'S advertised price—and service it, too! AL GROVER'S, Freeport, 516-378-0510.

OUTBOARD WANTED 10 to 20 hp. Short or long shaft. Any year in good running condition. 516-692-4352.

1985 MAKO 235 1985 Yamaha 220+, 130 hrs. 1983 Johnson 9.9 aux. Electric anchor, spray hood, SST top, side curtains, VHF, Loran C. Tracker 2000, remote spotlight, outriggers, downriggers. Dual batt. 1986 Float-on trailer. $23,500. Eves after 6: 516-764-3834/763-1982.

BOATING EQUIP.

RADAR, Loran, autopilots, VHF, SSB, fish recorders. Sales & service most major brands. Custom installations. MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS INC., 377 Woodcleft Av., Freeport, NY; 516-623-4421.

RADAR Furuno FR360 Mark II. Used one season-$3000. JAMES YORK MARINE ELECTRONICS, 516-929-3680.

BOAT TRAILER REPAIR. Complete w/all new galvanized parts. FAZIO MFG., Inc., 1121-16 Lincoln Av, Holbrook, NY 11741. 516-563-2263.

TRAILER HITCHES. All classes. Expert installation. RV & 4X4. Service & accessories. CBs & antennas; propane refills. ADR RECREATION & COMMUNICATIONS, 1400 Spur Dr. South, Islip, NY 11751; 516-581-6411.

ONE Set of 24X29 4-blade Nibrow props cup 1¾ shaft. Like new. 516-352-6287.

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BOAT TRAILERS: EZ Loader. All sizes in stock. Immediate del. Priced right. Trailer hitches installed. SEAHORSE TRAILER, Glen Head, NY. 516-676-5313.

LARGE Selection of new & used Mercury O/B parts. MISTER MARINE, Freeport, 516-868-6446.

BOAT TRAILERS FOR RENT: Single & Tandem Axle. Daily, weekly, monthly rates. Temporary & permanent hitches for sale or rent. BARN TRAILER SERVICE, 57-05 B'Way, Woodside, NY. 718-426-7039.

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DEADLY FLOUNDER RIGS

Tangle-free, tandem tied w/special stand-off knot. Used by sharpies. Sprout hooks for more hook-ups. 3/$3.75, incl. p/h. BILL SMITH, 158 Vermont Ave., Bay Shore, NY 11706.

KUSTOM KRAFT RODS—Order now for Xmas, or forever be sorry. Any type rod for any type L.I. Fishing. Eves: 516-421-1337.

FOR SALE: Stand-Up tuna rod, 6' custom built graphite rated for 50-100 lb. line. Fuji high frame guides, Hypalon grips, Aftco hooded reel seat. Minimal use. Replacement cost-$175. Will sell for $125. Can be seen at Fisherman Office, Mystic, Ct. 203-572-0564.

FOR SALE: Newell P454F reel. Lightweight, 5 to 1 retrieve. Ideal for deep water cod jigging. Good shape-$60; Newell 344F, lightweight, 5 to 1 retrieve, holds 440 yds. of 30 lb. test. Ideal for graphite rod-$45; Penn 112H w/Newell conversion kit & power handle. Good shape-$30. Can be seen at Fisherman Office. Can ship UPS. 203-572-0564.

Continued On Next Page

PENN 80, 50W, 50, 30 Reels w/Rods. $1500 takes all. 516-283-1020.

PENN SENATOR
2-113 4/0 Blackfaced-$40 ea.; 1-114 6/0 Blackfaced-$50 ea.; 1 Aftco Aluminum butt, new-$25. After 6PM: 516-281-0235.

DIAMOND JIGS, LURES, HOOKS
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MISCELLANEOUS

FULLY LICENSED CAPTAIN—water deliveries, boat/navigation instruction; charters & trips. 516-795-4498.

PENSION PLANS: Get the right one and fish for the rest of your life. THE RETIREMENT PLAN CO. OF L.I., 212-406-9888.

DUCKS & BIRDS Mounted Half Price. Ducks, reg. $85. Now $42.50; pheasants reg. $76. Now $38. Too many species to list. INWOOD TAXIDERMY, 20 Madison Ave., Inwood, NY; 516-239-7716.

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Quality winterizations, tune-ups, repairs. Johnson, Evinrude, Mercury outboards. OMC, Mercruiser, Sterndrives. Reasonable rates. Service calls. 516-334-3453.

WANTED: To put a few fishermen together for some serious offshore fishing for next season w/or without boat. Wantagh area. Bill: 221-0742.

DOCKAGE AVAILABLE—Reserve now for 1987 season. Winter storage. Nissan Outboards. KREMER'S BOATYARD, 2425 Jackson Ave., Seaford; 516-221-8877.

2 CAPTAINS, 2 First Mates Wanted: FT/PT Freeport, Montauk, Florida. Fully equip. 40+' Modern Sportfisherman. Charter & owners use. Excl. salary. Send handwritten experience, work history, references to: N.C. INC., 88-31 Eldert Lane, Woodhaven, NY 11421.

DYCKMAN BOAT YARD on ft. of Hudson River in Manhattan. Small boat storage year-round up to 30' by trailer. Specialist in towing & boat repair. Indoor storage available, 24 hr. security, hoist & ramp launch. 212-942-1420.

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HOUSE PAINTING: Interior & Exterior by Jack "The Painter" Murray. Let us paint while you fish. 516-273-0960.

NORTH SHORE TRAP CO., St. James, NY. 516-584-6870. Vinyl coated lobster, crab, eel traps and all lobstering equipment.

BOATS PROFESSIONALLY Winterized. Shrink wrap cover. 13 years experience. KERRY MINDICH Mobile Marine Service, Inc., 581-4246.

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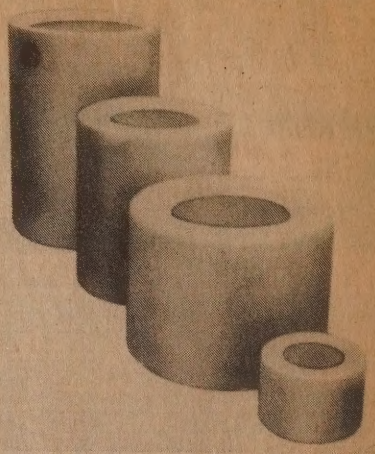
FULL LINE OF Taxidermy services including butchering of deer. INWOOD TAXIDERMY, 516-239-7716.



LIVE BAIT WELLS, pumps & accessories. For free brochure, send $.25 p/h. THE CADDY CO., 57 Bayonne Av, Dept. E, Central Islip, NY 11722; 516-234-0144.

REAL ESTATE

SEAFORD: 40x100 Waterfront bungalow on wide canal. Zoned business. For rent or sale. 756-9030.

RENT Florida Keys Condo. Duck Key: 2BR, 2Bth. Fully equip. Week or month. Bus: 516-264-2202. Home: 516-422-3492.

Some of the fish were as small as 12 to 14 inches. John heard of no bluefish this week on the beaches but expects a few of the locals will continue to keep a vigil as bass continue to straggle by. John asks that we extend his best for a Happy Holiday Season to all of his customers.

A report that slipped our attention from last week is old news now but still worth mentioning. If for nothing else, than to demonstrate the number of stripers that roamed our beaches this fall. Two weeks back, Phil Holowinski, Ray Corbett and Tony Pagnotta worked Montauk's sand beaches west of Hither Hills. The trio began in the late afternoon with popping plugs and then switched to yellow darters and Needlefish after dark. When all was said and done, they had accounted for 74 stripers from 5 to 10 pounds. The score was an accurate one because at the start of the trip it was decided that the low scorers would treat the hi-hook to a couple of new plugs.

The most encouraging surf news came from Paul Graniello at **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue**. Paul reported that Fire Island National Seashore, particularly the western most stretch at Long Cove continued to produce steady striper action through the weekend. Not all of the fish were schoolies. Billy Sembler culled a 17 pounder while on Sunday, Cliff Dietz and Mike Prisco connected with stripers of 35 and 10 pounds. Also on Sunday, Jay Tiedmann nailed a 10 pound striper at Smith Point. Another caster reported taking 6 schoolies on sinking Rebels on Sunday morning. A number of casters reported seeing a lot of bass rolling on the surface through the long Holiday weekend. The last bluefish news concerned a trio of casters who reported taking close to 50 big blues on bait and tin on the east side of Shinnecock, Wednesday. Paul knew that Shinnecock did produce good bluefish action Monday through Wednesday of last week but that was the end of it.

Jennifer Tyrer beached this 13.5 lb. blue, along with bass of 17 and 25 lbs. back on 11-12-86. The East End Surf Club member did her fishing at Fire Island National Seashore.

One reliable source reported seeing half a dozen bass in the 15 to 20 pound class taken in front of Smith Point on Wednesday morning.

The last bluefish report to come to my attention in the Fire Island area concerned 5 big blues taken at Robert Moses Field 2 Wednesday afternoon. The choppers, with the help of a strong southerly wind, had plenty of bunker pushed up on the beach.

From **Augie's Tackle Shop** in **Babylon**, Tom Healy reported a few small bass around in the local surf on Saturday morning. Mickey Sadowski hiked east to Field 5, Robert Moses from Parking Field 4. He used a green Musso Needlefish and teaser combo to take 5 school bass up to 8 pounds. A few schoolies were also picked at Gilgo and Democrat according to Tom. Another caster, Mark Melanowski treked east to FINS on Saturday morning. Working near Long Cove, he reported 5 bass to 12 pounds taken on teasers.

Jimmy Schaefer at **Charlie's Bait and Tackle** in **Lindenhurst** said that the last blues he heard of were taken early last week. Since then, just a pick of small bass at Robert Moses. Mike Shahnamian had 2 schoolies there on Sunday.

This will wrap up our surf reports for this season. Again, a special thanks to all of those who helped contribute information over the course of the season. To everyone, a happy, healthy holiday season and see you next spring.

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . –0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	9:30	10:05	10:15	10:45	10:10	10:50	10:50	11:35	12:35	12:45	12:30	12:50	9:25	9:55	12/4
FRI.	10:30	11:05	11:15	11:45	11:10	11:55	11:52	—	1:40	1:45	1:30	1:50	10:25	10:55	12/5
SAT.	11:30	—	—	12:10	—	12:10	12:40	12:55	2:45	3:00	2:30	2:50	11:20	11:55	12/6
SUN.	12:10	12:25	12:50	1:15	12:55	1:10	1:45	2:00	4:05	4:25	3:30	3:55	—	12:20	12/7
MON.	1:05	1:25	2:00	2:20	1:50	2:05	2:50	3:10	5:15	5:45	4:35	5:00	12:55	1:25	12/8
TUES.	2:05	2:25	3:05	3:20	2:45	3:05	3:55	4:20	6:20	6:50	5:35	6:05	1:55	2:20	12/9
WED.	3:05	3:25	4:10	4:25	3:45	4:00	4:55	5:25	7:15	7:45	6:35	7:05	2:55	3:20	12/10
THURS.	4:00	4:20	5:00	5:15	4:40	5:00	5:50	6:15	8:10	8:40	7:30	8:00	3:45	4:10	12/11

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehobeth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	–0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point, north side	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	–0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	-0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rochelle	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	–1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 12/4	7:11	4:29
FRI. 12/5	7:12	4:29
SAT. 12/6	7:13	4:29
SUN. 12/7	7:14	4:29
MON. 12/8	7:15	4:29
TUE. 12/9	7:16	4:29
WED. 12/10	7:17	4:29

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 12/4	10:30AM	7:35PM
FRI. 12/5	11:15AM	8:55PM
SAT. 12/6	11:45AM	10:10PM
SUN. 12/7	12:15PM	11:20PM
MON. 12/8	12:35PM	—
TUE. 12/9	1:00PM	12:25AM
WED. 12/10	1:20PM	1:35AM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
12/1	12/8	12/16	12/24

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	7:15	**1:05**	7:50	**1:35**
Fri.	8:20	**2:10**	8:55	**2:40**
Sat.	9:25	**3:15**	9:55	**3:40**
Sun.	10:20	**4:10**	10:50	**4:35**
Mon.	11:10	**5:00**	11:40	**5:25**
Tues.	11:50	**5:40**	—	**6:05**
Wed.	12:20	**6:20**	12:30	**6:40**
Thurs.	12:55	**7:00**	1:10	**7:20**

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This year there's

"One More"™

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We call it "One More"™ (T-2). And since it has more line capacity, it's perfect for taking on larger gamefish like Muskie, Northern, Striper, Steelhead, Bonefish or Salmon.

"One More" (T-2) has all the technical advantages of "The One": Right/Left Retrieve, "Touch 'N Trip"® Thumb Bar, Flipping Switch, "Handle Drag"™, Magnetic Cast Control. And, it even has a "Clicker Switch" for trolling, drift and baitfishing.

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